

WRITTEN QUESTION P-0924/03
by Jorge Moreira Da Silva (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Funding the Natura 2000 network

The Natura 2000 network is a basic instrument of national and European nature conservation policies. Although the list of Natura 2000 sites is not complete, it already counts for 18% of the territory of the Union. 22% of Portuguese territory is covered and adequate financial arrangements are required to guarantee the protection of the sites included in the Natura 2000 network. Furthermore, in order to meet the objectives established by the Gothenburg Strategy and the Johannesburg Implementation Plan, a Natura 2000 network needs to be extended to cover the marine environment.

1. When will the new rules for funding Natura 2000 be submitted? What is the total amount earmarked for it?
2. How does the Commission intend to extend the Natura 2000 network to the marine environment?