

WRITTEN QUESTION P-6943/08
by Kyösti Virrankoski (ALDE)
to the Commission

Subject: Transposition of selection criteria for Natura 2000 areas into national law

In the statement of grounds for its judgment C-6/04 of 20 October 2005, the Court of Justice of the EU states that, with reference to Directive 92/43/EEC¹ on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive), which lays down complex and technical rules in the field of environmental law, the Member States are under a particular duty to ensure that their legislation intended to transpose that directive is clear and precise, including to national authorities.

Does Finland's Nature Conservation Law or any other Finnish law incorporate the criteria for selecting Natura 2000 areas in the way required according to the judgment given by the Court of Justice of the EU on 20 October 2005 and its statement of grounds?

If not, what will the Commission do to ensure that the selection criteria for Natura 2000 areas as referred to in Article 4(1) of Directive 92/43/EEC and in Annex III (Stage 1), to which that article refers, are laid down clearly and precisely in Finnish law?

Why, in addition to the translation of the actual Directive, do all the Finnish-language consolidated versions of the Habitats Directive published in the Official Journal of the EU to date, i.e. those of 10 June 1992, 1 January 1995, 28 November 1997, 20 November 2003, 1 May 2005 and 1 January 2007 omit Article 4(4), governing the national arrangements for establishing Natura 2000 areas?

Why or on what grounds is Article 4(4) of the Habitats Directive missing only from the Finnish-language versions?

¹ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.