

**Question for written answer P-000731/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Margrete Auken (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Natura 2000

The Danish Government is in the process of withdrawing 23 000 hectares (230 km²) of land from the Natura 2000 programme without designating any new sites for the habitats concerned. The land concerned is part of a total Natura 2000 surface area of 22 647 km², some 3 594 km² of which is on land, with the remainder being marine areas. According to the EU's Natura 2000 barometer, Denmark already has the lowest proportion of Natura 2000 sites of any Member State. Natura 2000 sites account for 8.34% of Denmark's territory. The average across all the Member States is 18.12%.

The EU Environmental Implementation Review relating to Denmark published in February 2017 pointed out that 'Denmark needs to make further efforts to ensure protection and management towards Favourable Conservation Status of protected habitats and species', and that just 33% of protected species enjoy 'favourable' conservation status.

Is the Commission aware that Denmark is reducing the amount of land covered by the Natura 2000 programme?

Has the Commission considered to what extent it is consistent with the Habitats and Birds directives for Member States to restrict their nature conservation areas when biodiversity has still not reached favourable levels?