

**Question for written answer P-004564/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Geothermal energy and a Natura 2000 site

According to press reports, the fauna at the IT51A0018 Natura 2000 site has declined over the last two or three years. The site still lacks a management plan despite its designation as an SAC in 2016¹. This decline began at the same time as the opening of a geothermal power plant, Bagnore 4, located at the edge of the site². Recently, it has become more dramatic: some species in Annex I to the Birds Directive and Annex II to the Habitat Directive have become rarer or have even disappeared; and the site lacks significant animal biodiversity³.

There are other geothermal power plants located near the site. All emit large quantities of substances that are harmful to both health and the environment⁴. Excessive quantities of substances such as mercury, thallium, arsenic, nickel, chromium and cobalt have been found in the blood and urine of local people⁵.

With regard to the IT51A0018 site, can the Commission state:

- (1) When did Italy last monitor these species and their numbers?
- (2) Does the Commission believe that Italy has fulfilled its conservation obligations? If so, can it provide evidence of this? If not, can it specify the measures it intends to implement or that have already been implemented?
- (3) Will the Commission raise this matter with the competent authorities?

¹ <http://iltirreno.gelocal.it/grosseto/cronaca/2016/07/13/news/uccelli-scomparsi-geotermia-nel-mirino-1.13812865?ref=search>

² <http://www.arpat.toscana.it/notizie/notizie-brevi/2016/centrale-geotermica-di-bagnore-4>

³ <http://ricerca.gelocal.it/iltirreno/archivio/iltirreno/2018/07/04/grosseto-preoccupante-calo-della-fauna-sul-labro-16.html?ref=search>

⁴ <http://www.arpat.toscana.it/documentazione/report/report-geotermia/report-sul-monitoraggio-nelle-aree-geotermiche>

⁵ https://www.ars.toscana.it/images/determinanti_salute/news/Aprea_Invetta_metalli.pdf