Subject: Sustainability proofing of tourism development on the Hungarian side of lake Fertő

Lake Fertő is a transboundary watercourse between Austria and Hungary, and protected under both the Bird and Habitats Directives. It is the third largest lake in central Europe, and the westernmost of the Asian steppe lakes in Europe.

The Hungarian government is planning to develop a gigantic tourism complex in the territory of the city of Sopron, which will cover 20 hectares along the shore of lake Fertő, and poses a serious threat to the natural environment of this Natura 2000 site.

Although an environmental impact assessment was conducted on this project, it did not answer questions linked to the transboundary impacts of this investment, especially during its operational phase.

1 What action does the Commission plan to guarantee that this tourism development plan will not harm the natural environment of the lake Fertő transboundary Natura 2000 site?

2 How can the Commission check the accuracy of the impact assessments on priority species?

3 How will the Commission ensure that the Hungarian government's tourism development plan takes into account transboundary impacts, including during the operational phase of the investment, with particular attention to the increased tourism pressure resulting from an extended tourism season?