

**Priority question for written answer P-000011/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Shortcomings in the protection of nature in Germany: law enforcement through DG Environment

In February 2020, the Commission sent a reasoned opinion to Germany urging it to respect its obligations under Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, and criticising the general and persistent practice, in all Länder and at federal level, of not setting out sufficiently detailed and quantified conservation objectives for Natura 2000 sites. The Commission also pointed out that Germany has failed to ensure that public authorities actively and systematically disseminate management plans to the public.

This reasoned opinion is the last non-judicial document in infringement procedure No 20142262. Germany has not replied. Instead, in response to a written question in the Bundestag, the German Government admitted that it does not share the Commission's interpretation of EU law¹.

Will the Commission finally step up to protect nature and refer the matter to the Court of Justice?

The Commission has also promised that the implementation and enforcement of legislation will be 'at the heart of this [biodiversity] strategy, for which political support and financial and human resources will need to be prioritised'. Will the Commission provide its Directorate-General for Environment with the appropriate financial and human resources to enable it to enforce EU law?

¹ <https://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/19/220/1922032.pdf>