

**Priority question for written answer P-000151/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The Member States' individual contributions to the EU's biodiversity

In the European Environment Agency's summary of the Member States' reports on the conservation status of habitats and species ('State of nature in the EU'<sup>1</sup>), figure 3.8 (page 44) shows the various countries' data on the conservation status of habitats. Figure 3.13 (page 50) indicates the conservation status of species. It is stated in section 5.1 (page 108) that Denmark has the lowest share of Natura-2000 designated land.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 sets a target for 30% of the EU's surface area to be designated as protected land, because one of the prerequisites for achieving favourable conservation status for habitats and species is space for nature.

1. Will the Commission assess Denmark's rating in relation to the other Member States on the basis that Denmark is in last place in terms of both the conservation status of habitats and the conservation status of species, in conjunction with the fact that Denmark is the country with the smallest amount of Natura-2000 designated land?
2. Is the Commission aware that the Danish Government has decided on five general principles for the minimum implementation of EU legislation, meaning that Denmark will implement the provisions of the Nature Directives on the designation of Natura 2000 areas and the achievement of favourable conservation status as little and as late as possible and with the widest possible use of derogations, as per the Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs' website?<sup>2</sup>
3. Will the Commission assess whether it would be biologically and politically appropriate for the requirement that at least 30% of land be protected to apply not only at the level of the EU as a whole, but also at Member State level?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/state-of-nature-in-the-eu-2020>

<sup>2</sup> <https://erhvervsstyrelsen.dk/principper-implementering-af-erhvervsrettet-eu-regulering>