

**Priority question for written answer P-000521/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Dan-Ștefan Motreanu (PPE)

Subject: Bystroye canal dredging operations in the Danube delta

According to recent reports circulating in Romania, the Ukrainian authorities are currently planning to carry out dredging operations in the Bystroye canal. This would be in breach of international law and would cause irreparable environmental damage to the Danube delta, a UNESCO world heritage site.

It appears that the dredging operations are part of a plan to incorporate the Chilia and Bystroye branches of the Danube in the trans-European transport network (TEN-T). This would require the agreement of the Romanian authorities, which have, however, repeatedly opposed the idea.

1. What action is the Commission taking to monitor the situation regarding the dredging of the Bystroye canal?
2. What action will it take if the Ukrainian authorities decide to carry out dredging operations in the Bystroye canal without the consent of the Romanian authorities?

Submitted: 17.2.2023