

**Priority question for written answer P-001109/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Michiel Hoogeveen (ECR)

Subject: Clarifying the letter of 28 March 2023 from Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius to Ms van der Wal, Netherlands Minister for Nitrogen and Nature, and the influence of the Commission

1. The letter makes reference to meeting the targets for reducing emissions of nitrogen oxides and ammonia by 2030. On 10 February the Commissioner stated that it was up to the Netherlands to act and decide what changes were possible under the flexibility arrangements in the Habitats Directive¹. How does the Commission reconcile those statements with the fact that 2030 is a deadline set in the coalition agreement in the Netherlands, but is not mentioned anywhere in Dutch legislation?
2. On 10 February the Commissioner stated that he had insufficient information to assess threshold values. How does the Commission reconcile that statement with the letter of 28 March, which stated that the Commission would continue to closely monitor the measures taken by the Netherlands to ensure complete restoration of nitrogen-sensitive habitats? Can the Commission say how, in order to do that, it does have the right information?
3. What is the role of Commissioner Frans Timmermans and Head of Cabinet in the decision to abolish the manure derogation for the Netherlands and in how the letter of 28 March to the Dutch Minister came about?²

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¹ Parliamentary question, 'Clarifying the report on the meeting between ministers from the Netherlands and Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius to discuss the nitrogen crisis in the Netherlands', P-004184/2022, European Parliament (europarl.europa.eu).

² <https://www.ftm.nl/artikelen/diederik-samsom-hamerde-op-gedwongen-uitkoop-veeboeren>