



16 years ESJ
Special edition

On the Main Regulatory Characteristics of the Natura 2000 Network in EU Law and Hungarian Law

Dr. Klara Bak, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Agrarian Law,
Faculty of Law, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

[Doi:10.19044/esj.2026.v22n38p333](https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2026.v22n38p333)

Submitted: 20 November 2025
Accepted: 05 January 2026
Published: 23 March 2026

Copyright 2026 Author(s)
Under Creative Commons CC-BY 4.0
OPEN ACCESS

Cite As:

Bak, K. (2026). *On the Main Regulatory Characteristics of the Natura 2000 Network in EU Law and Hungarian Law*. *European Scientific Journal, ESJ*, 22 (38), 333.

<https://doi.org/10.19044/esj.2026.v22n38p333>

Abstract

The Natura 2000 ecological network established in the European Union has grown into a particularly large network in the 27 Member States of the EU, which is of inestimable importance for the conservation of biodiversity. The regulation can be described as two-tiered in relation to the EU and the Member States. EU law sets out framework rules in its relevant directives. It contains specific classifications in its annexes for animal and plant species and areas of Community importance that require protection. On this regulatory foundation, Member States must enact appropriate legislation that is practical to apply and takes into account the specific characteristics of the given State. Considering the significance of Natura 2000 sites, this paper first aims to analyse the main provisions of the relevant EU regulations, then to present the regulatory framework and content of Hungarian national law concerning Natura 2000 sites. The thesis suggests that, because of the unique features of the regulatory field, a complex, multi-tiered regulatory approach is justified. Achieving the best protection for nature requires detailed regulation, which is most suitably carried out at a lower legislative level.

Keywords: Conservation of biodiversity, Natura 2000 ecological network, Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, habitats of community interests, nature conservation

Introduction

Starting point

Preserving biological diversity and effectively regulating nature conservation are key priorities for both the European Union and Hungary. To conserve biodiversity, the European Union created the Natura 2000 ecological network to protect Europe's particularly valuable habitats and species. Currently, across the EU-27, the Natura 2000 network covers 768,956 km² of land and 525,920 km² of marine areas.¹ It can therefore be regarded as the most extensive nature-protection network in the world. The EU's current Biodiversity Strategy up to 2030² (hereinafter: the Strategy), which records Union-level commitments³ to nature protection up to 2030, assigns great significance to Natura 2000 areas. The Strategy views Natura 2000 sites as a fundamental tool for restoring Europe's natural systems. It therefore sets the goal of strengthening the protection of the Natura 2000 network and harnessing its full potential, calling on Member States to preserve the Natura 2000 areas and to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of protected species and habitats. The Strategy also urges Member States to implement the governing rules as widely as possible. A further essential statement in the document highlights the multifunctional nature of Natura 2000 sites: in addition to their environmental value, they are also economically significant.⁴

In line with the objectives set out in the Strategy, Hungary has adopted three national biodiversity strategies so far⁵. The current 3rd National

¹ See data on <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/maps-and-charts/natura-2000-barometer-dashboards>

² Exact reference to the Strategy: Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 Bringing nature back into our lives (Brussels, 2020.5.20.COM(2020) 380 final). Available online: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:a3c806a6-9ab3-11ea-9d2d01aa75ed71a1.0015.02/DOC_1&format=PDF

³ The specific commitments are as follows:

At least 30% of the Union's land area and at least 30% of its marine area, together with the necessary ecological corridors, should be legally protected as part of a truly trans-European nature network.

At least one third of the EU's protected areas, including all existing natural and old-growth forests, should be strictly protected.

Protected areas need to be managed effectively, which requires defining clear conservation objectives and implementing appropriate measures, and ensuring their proper monitoring. See: Strategy, p 6

⁴ The Strategy sets the benefits of the Natura 2000 network at between €200 billion and €300 billion per year, including the expectation that the network's investment needs will create up to 500,000 jobs. See Strategy, page 4

⁵ The first biodiversity conservation strategy for the period 2009-2014 was adopted by the parliament as an annex to the Third National Environmental Protection Programme. The

Biodiversity Strategy⁶ reflects the EU's commitments set out in the EU Strategy and aligns with it by formulating 19 objectives that take into account national specificities. Several of the objectives relate to Natura 2000 areas; the development of the network of protected areas and the improvement of site management are also emphasised in the Hungarian strategy. In the Hungarian context, it is worth noting that the Natura 2000 network is also significant: in real terms, it covers 21.4% of Hungary, encompassing 1.99 million hectares.⁷ Given the importance of Natura 2000 areas both in the European Union and in Hungary, this paper seeks to present the main features of the regulation of the Natura 2000 network under Union law and under Hungarian law. The work is predominantly based on legal-dogmatic analysis, while also demonstrating how Hungarian national law shapes its specific regulation in light of the foundations of EU legislation, taking into account regulatory pillars that were already in place before Hungary acceded to the EU.

I. Main features of the Natura 2000 network

The Natura 2000 ecological network was established in the European Union in 1992⁸ with the aim that the EU Member States develop coordinated protection for the continent's wildlife, stop the decline in biological diversity within the Community, and contribute to maintaining or, where necessary, restoring a favourable conservation status for certain habitat types, as well as animal and plant species. The Natura 2000 network includes the most valuable plant species, animal species and habitats in Europe.⁹ Natura 2000 sites host plant and animal species that, in a European context, are endangered, vulnerable, rare, endemic¹⁰ or outstanding examples of species characteristic of one or more European biogeographical regions.¹¹ Hungary is located in the

Second National Strategy for the Conservation of Biodiversity (2014-2020) has already been adopted by the National Assembly as an independent strategy. After the latter's expiry, it became necessary to renew it in the 3rd century. The current National Biodiversity Strategy runs until 2030.

⁶ Adopted by the Government of Hungary on 8 August 2023. The National Strategy 3 can be found in Hungarian:

<https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/sheets/1/14/141/14141a7031c32aa7f9338edf332e811.pdf>

⁷ See the data of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office:

<https://ksh.hu/s/kiadvanyok/fenntarthato-fejlodes-indikatorai-2022/3-7-sdg-14> . It is worth mentioning that in addition to the Natura 2000 areas, there are also natural areas of national importance in Hungary protected by specific legislation, which represent 9.1% of the country's territory.

⁸ The Natura 2000 network was established by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), which will be analysed later.

⁹ See https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity_en

¹⁰ Only a stationary species that lives in a certain place.

¹¹ Nine European biogeographical regions can be distinguished: Alpine region; Atlantic region; Black Sea region; Polar region; Continental region; Macaronesian region;

Pannonian region, which was established in 2004 with the accession of Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic to the European Union.¹² The Pannonian region is unique because it contains many species that do not occur in any other Natura 2000 region. 80% of this region lies within Hungary's territory.¹³

In the case of Natura 2000 sites, it is important to emphasise that the European Union's aim in creating the network was not to isolate the areas concerned completely, but rather to emphasise that the European Union's aim in creating the network was not to isolate the areas concerned completely or to prohibit their use. The aim was to ensure that the areas covered by the network were used in an environmentally friendly but economically viable manner. The European Union also encourages sustainable land use through various subsidies within the framework of the Common Agricultural Policy to promote appropriate management in these areas.¹⁴ In terms of figures, for example, in Hungary, approximately 46% of areas under nature protection or Natura 2000 are used for agriculture or fishing.¹⁵ Cultivation and exploitation are possible within the limits set by law.

II. Governing regulations at the EU level

1. The two key directives

The legal basis of the Natura 2000 ecological network consists of two Union directives: Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds¹⁶(known

Mediterranean region; Pannonian region (this region also includes Hungary); Steppe region. For the nine regions, see above, p. 3.

¹² See it as above. The Pannonian region also includes certain areas of Romania in addition to the affected areas of the countries indicated above. The Pannonian region covers 3% of the territory of the European Union. See also: European Commission: Natura 2000 in the Pannonian region; Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010, available online at <https://op.europa.eu/hu/publication-detail/-/publication/cd7b58a8-dbeb-4093-8269-6d5a2951563a/>

¹³ See: Decision 28/2017. (X. 25.) of the Constitutional Court of Hungary

¹⁴For the current Natura 2000 CAP subsidies, see the following for Hungary:

<https://kap.gov.hu/english>. For the history of the development and main features of CAP regulation, see: Réti, Mária; Bak, Klára: The Common Agricultural Policy with and without the United Kingdom – CAP Brexit ELTE LAW JOURNAL, 2016 163-182; and also: Réti, Mária: On the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union, In: Navracics, Tibor; Tárnok, Balázs (ed.) The 2024 Hungarian EU Presidency Budapest, Ludovika University Publishing House, 2024

¹⁵ See:

<https://www.nak.hu/tajekoztatasi-szolgalatas/kornyezetgazdalkodas/102785-gazdalkodas-vedett-es-natura-2000-teruletteken-mire-erdemes-figyelni>

¹⁶ Previous legislation: Council Directive 79/409/EEC of 2 April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds

as the *Birds Directive*)¹⁷ and Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (*Habitats Directive*). Together, the Birds and Habitats Directives¹⁸, in their annexes, identify the plant and animal species and habitats whose conservation is of Community interest and which form part of the Natura 2000 network.

2. About the Birds Directive

*The Birds Directive applies to the protection of all wild bird species naturally occurring in the European Union, including their eggs and habitats.*¹⁹ It is worth noting that the previous legislation on the protection of wild birds was adopted in 1979, which can be considered the first nature conservation legislation establishing the Natura 2000 sites - the Directive 79/409/EEC, followed by the current Directive 2009/147/EC. In addition to the rules governing the protection, management, and control of bird species, the Birds Directive also provides for their exploitation.²⁰ *Under the directive, Member States are required to take the necessary measures to establish a general system of protection for all bird species.*²¹

The annexes to the Directive establish different levels of protection and identify the species that fall within each level. For the species listed in Annex I, special conservation measures concerning their habitat are required in order to ensure their survival and reproduction within their area of distribution.²² By contrast, the restrictions are less stringent for Annex II: species listed there may be hunted based on their population levels, geographical distribution, and reproductive rate throughout the Union. However, hunting is strongly constrained by national laws: birds in this annex may be hunted only in accordance with national law. As part of the overall EU framework for hunting, Member States must ensure that the hunting of these species does not jeopardise conservation efforts within their range. Annex II consists of two parts: species in Part A may be hunted in the sea areas and on land in which the Directive applies; those in Part B may be hunted only in those Member States for which that possibility is indicated.²³

¹⁷ Available online:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02009L0147-20190626>

¹⁸ Available online:

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043>

¹⁹ See for the Birds Directive in practical aspect: John Temple Lang: The requirements for an effective international nature conservation system, and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives, in: Andrew L. R. Jackson (ed.): Nature Law and Policy in Europe, 1st Edition, Routledge, 2023, DOI: 10.4324/9780429299100-3, pp 29-46

²⁰ Article 1(1)-(2) of the Birds Directive

²¹ Article 5 of the Birds Directive

²² Article 4(1) of the Birds Directive

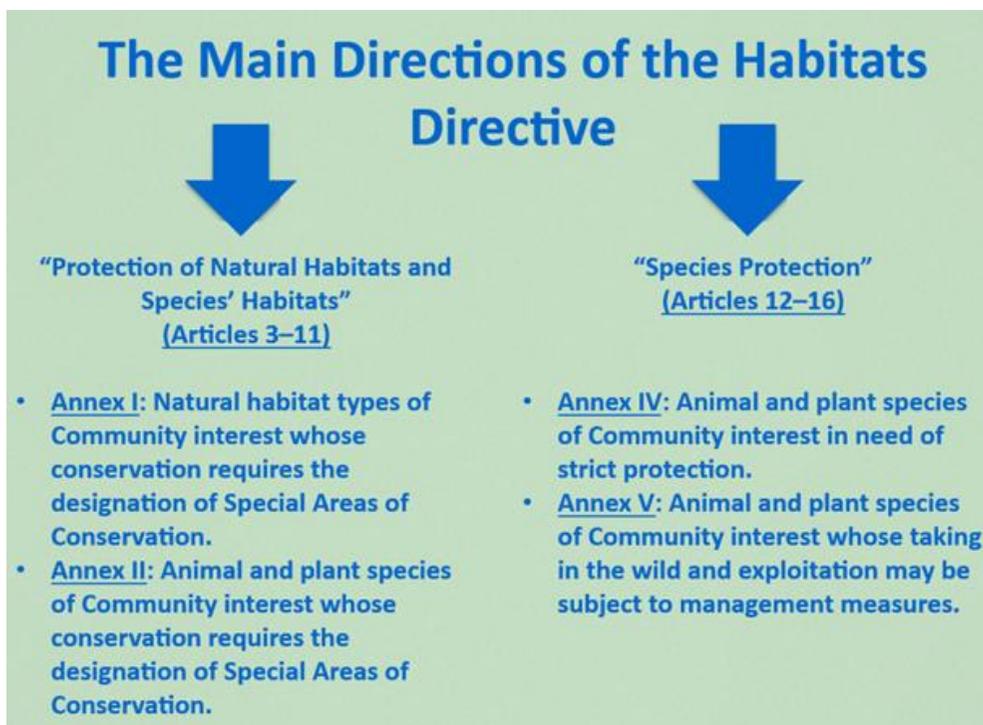
²³ Article 7(1) to (3) of the Birds Directive

3. About the Habitats Directive

Regarding the provisions of the Habitats Directive, it is also important to highlight the Directive's purpose and the purpose of the measures taken under it. According to Article 2 of the Directive, the purpose of the Habitats Directive is to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity by protecting natural habitats and wild fauna and flora in the European Union. *The specific purpose of the measures taken under the Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of natural habitats and wild animal and plant species of Community interest.* It is also worth referring to Article 2(3), which provides that the measures taken pursuant to the Directive shall take account of economic, social, and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics. In practice, therefore, the regulation allows Member States to reflect national specificities to some extent. Article 3 is of particular importance, since paragraph (1) defines the Natura 2000 network as a coherent European ecological network of special areas of conservation. In particular, the natural habitat types listed in Annex I to the Directive and the natural areas that host the species listed in Annex II constitute the Natura 2000 network. Specifically, the Natura 2000 network consists of the natural habitat types listed in Annex I to the Directive and the natural areas serving as habitats for the species listed in Annex II. The specific objective of Article 3(1) is to maintain or, where appropriate, restore the favourable conservation status of the natural habitat types and species habitats listed in the two Annexes within their natural range and distribution area. Article 3 also states that special areas of conservation designated by Member States in accordance with the Birds Directive are also part of the Natura 2000 network.

Structurally, the rules in the Habitats Directive fall into two major blocks. Articles 3–11 contain provisions on the protection of habitats, specifically natural habitats and the habitats of species. These provisions are complemented by Annexes I and II of the Directive, listing the special areas of conservation. The other major regulatory block concerns species protection. The provisions on species protection are found in Articles 12–16 of the Directive and are complemented by Annexes IV and V, which list plant and animal species of Community importance. An overview of these relationships is provided in the following schematic²⁴:

²⁴ The schematic was created by Dr. Bak, Klára PhD



Two further annexes should also be mentioned. Annex III sets out the criteria for selecting sites of Community importance and for designating special areas of conservation. At the same time, Annex VI specifies the prohibited methods and means of capture, killing and transport of animals.

Annex III of the Habitats Directive is also noteworthy from a practical standpoint because it effectively defines the set of criteria and requirements on the basis of which Member States must designate Natura 2000 areas. Based on the requirements laid down for Member States and of the relevant scientific knowledge, each Member State must submit a proposed list of appropriate sites, indicating which of the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and which of the native species listed in Annex II occur in each site.

Within three years of the notification of the Directive, the Member State must send the list to the Commission, together with information on each site (map, name, geographical location, extent, other data).²⁵ The Commission, in agreement with the Member States, draws up a draft list of sites of Community interest, using the lists drawn up by the Member States, which shall identify natural areas containing one or more priority natural habitat

²⁵ Article 4(1) of the Habitats Directive

types or serving as habitats for endangered species.²⁶ The Member State must draw up the list within six years of the notification of the Directive.²⁷

Following approval of a site of Community interest, the Member State concerned must designate it as a special area of conservation as soon as possible, and at the latest within 6 years.²⁸

4. The relationship between Community legislation and national legislation

The framework regulations laid down by the two directives, together with the specific habitat types, animal and plant species listed in their annexes, provide a sound basis for Member State regulations to achieve the Community objective. Member State regulations must adapt the provisions of the directives by developing detailed rules and, in many cases, technical rules, taking into account their specific characteristics. This is also the case in Hungarian law.

III. On the main characteristics of the regulation of Natura 2000 in Hungarian law

1. On the hierarchical structure of the regulation

In Hungarian law, the effective Natura 2000 regulation forms part of the rules on nature conservation and is built up in a graduated manner. At the highest level of the regulatory hierarchy stands Hungary's Fundamental Law (hereinafter: the Fundamental Law). The next level is Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules for the Protection of the Environment, which lays down general rules for environmental protection and merely refers to specific subjects of protection, such as nature protection. The specific rules that relate expressly to nature protection—including the basic rules on Natura 2000 areas—are set out in a separate act, Act LIII of 1996 on Nature Conservation. It is also important to note that Hungarian law contains separate provisions for Natura 2000 sites in several regulatory areas related to agriculture or environmental protection, such as legislation on land acquisition or land protection. Furthermore, as Natura 2000 sites are registered under Hungarian law, the rules governing the land register also include provisions on them. The legislation is supplemented by several lower-level legal provisions that typically contain detailed rules and technical standards. The multi-level and complex regulation of nature conservation in Hungarian law makes it possible to ensure that, while the fundamental protective rules remain unchanged, the practical and detailed provisions can be more easily adapted to changes by being laid down in lower-level legislation.

²⁶ Article 4(2) of the Habitats Directive

²⁷ Article 4(3) of the Habitats Directive

²⁸ Article 4(4) of the Habitats Directive

2. On the provisions of the Hungarian Fundamental Law

In the field of nature conservation, both the Preamble of the Hungarian Fundamental Law and the specific provisions of Article P are of relevance. The Preamble expresses the requirement of environmental sustainability as follows: '*...We bear responsibility for our posterity, and therefore we protect the living conditions of future generations through the careful use of our material, intellectual and natural resources...*'¹⁹

In harmony with the Preamble, Article P specifies those objects of regulation whose protection is essential to ensure environmental sustainability. Using the umbrella term of 'natural resources' for the objects of protection, it then highlights certain resources that warrant particular protection as follows: '*(1) Natural resources, in particular arable land, forests and water resources, biodiversity—especially native plant and animal species—as well as cultural assets are the common heritage of the nation, and it is the obligation of the State and everyone to protect, sustain and preserve them for future generations.*'

It should be emphasised that, in spirit, the quoted provision of the Fundamental Law is in harmony with the objectives of the EU's Natura 2000 regulation, as in both cases the fundamental requirement is the preservation of natural values. Under the Fundamental Law, the legislator imposes the triple obligation to protect, sustain, and preserve our natural environment not only on the State but also records it as an obligation incumbent on everyone. This constitutional rule provides the basis for a set of peremptory norms governing natural resources, typically expressed as prohibitions and obligations.

3. Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection

Act LIII of 1995 enforces the requirement of environmental sustainability in its preamble and in its provisions. The preamble states: "*... natural heritage and environmental values are part of the national wealth, the preservation and protection of which and the improvement of their quality are basic conditions from the point of view of wildlife, human health and quality of life; without this, the harmony between human activity and nature cannot be maintained...*"

It is also important to highlight Section 3 of the Act, which states that a separate Act with specific rules governs the protection of nature, naturally harmonized with the values, principles, and provisions of Act LIII of 1995. In concrete terms: '*To preserve and restore the diversity of wildlife and its habitats, and areas, formations and facilities possessing scientific, cultural or aesthetic value—in harmony with this Act—separate acts shall lay down rules a) on the protection of nature and the landscape, ...*'²⁹

²⁹ Section 3 (2) of Act LIII of 1995

4. Act LIII of 1996 on the Protection of Nature

As noted above, Act LIII of 1996 on Nature Conservation builds on the Hungarian Fundamental Law and on Act LIII of 1995. The legislator sets a dual objective for the Act: alongside general obligations to protect, conserve, maintain and improve, it also provides for the possibility of affording enhanced protection to certain natural values and areas²⁰. This Act also defines ‘Natura 2000’ in Hungarian law and records basic provisions concerning Natura 2000 sites. It is therefore the basic legal instrument for Natura 2000 in Hungarian law. The statutory definition—giving effect to the relevant provisions of Union law—is as follows: *‘Natura 2000 site (area of European Community interest for nature conservation): special bird protection area designated in a separate legal act, an area designated as a special nature conservation area or a nature conservation area of outstanding interest, or a special nature conservation area or a nature conservation area of outstanding interest approved by the European Union.’*³⁰

Act LIII of 1996 also stipulates that Natura 2000 sites shall be designated by the Hungarian Government, which shall then publish them and lay down the rules applicable to these sites. Land parcels within Natura 2000 sites shall be announced by the minister.³¹ Another practical rule of the law is that data relating to Natura 2000 designations must be entered in the land register. If the designation is revoked, the entry must be deleted from the land register.³²

5. On the main lower level legislation for Natura 2000 sites

Government Decree 275/2004. (X. 8.) On areas of Community interest for nature conservation (hereinafter: Government Decree 275/2004) lays down the basic rules applicable to Natura 2000 sites in Hungarian law based on Community law. This decree establishes rules for the delimitation of Natura 2000 sites, in general, and, in particular, for activities that may be carried out in these areas and for subsidies. The annexes to the decree also contain a classification of plant and animal species in Hungary, taking into account Community legislation. From an agricultural-management perspective, one provision is particularly noteworthy: activities carried out lawfully and in accordance with a final authorisation at the time of site designation, and which do not endanger or impair the attainment of the site’s conservation objectives, may be continued without restriction. In practical terms, this provision gives effect in Hungarian law to the Union-law principle that farming should not, as a rule, be prohibited; rather, it must meet the expectations that ensure the conservation of the biological diversity to be protected at the site concerned.

³⁰ Section 4 h) of Act LIII of 1996:

³¹ Section 41/A (1) of Act LIII of 1996

³² Section 41/A (2) of Act LIII of 1996

Accordingly, it is very important to emphasize, as a conclusion drawn from a combined reading of the relevant EU law and Hungarian law, that agricultural and forestry land use is, as a general rule, not prohibited in Natura 2000 areas. It is, however, essential that only agricultural and forestry land use compatible with the characteristics of the given area may be carried out in such areas. In this context, a public-law restriction applies to land use. This public-law restriction limits the owner's right of disposal, as legislation mandates how the owner may use their own land. The same applies in the case of a land-use contract, as in that situation, the land user's right of use is likewise restricted as a result of public-law regulation.³³

It is also worth mentioning another regulation that applies to a specific type of cultivation, namely grassland, if it is also a Natura 2000 site. The purpose of Government Decree 269/2007. (X. 18.) The land use rules for the maintenance of Natura 2000 grasslands are to establish rules specifically for the use of Natura 2000 grasslands to ensure that the areas are used in an appropriate and environmentally friendly manner, taking into account their protected nature. Based on Act LIII of 1996, Decree 14/2010. (V. 11.) KvVM contains the cadastral numbers of land parcels affected by Natura 2000 classification.

The analysis shows that the regulation of Natura 2000 areas is, from a structural perspective, really two-tiered. The general rules of Union law and the specific classifications it contains form the first tier; building on this, national legal systems—such as Hungary's—must adopt more practical rules within their nature-conservation frameworks. Hungarian law implements the concrete regulation of Natura 2000 areas through acts and lower-level legal instruments. The result of this coherent two-tier system, comprising Union and national law, is today's vast network, which has become a cornerstone for conserving biological diversity in the European Union.

Conflict of Interest: The author reported no conflict of interest.

Data Availability: All data are included in the content of the paper.

Funding Statement: The author did not obtain any funding for this research.

References:

1. John Temple Lang: The requirements for an effective international nature conservation system, and the EU Birds and Habitats Directives,

³³ For the application of the regulation, see also: Natura 2000-sites: Stefan Möckel: Legal requirements for agricultural and forestry land-use, *Nature Conservation* 48: 161–184 (2022), doi: 10.3897/natureconservation.48.77899, <https://natureconservation.pensoft.net>

- in: Andrew L. R. Jackson (ed.): Nature Law and Policy in Europe, 1st Edition, Routledge, 2023, DOI: 10.4324/9780429299100-3, pp 29-46
2. Réti, Mária: On the Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union, In: Navracsecs, Tibor; Tárnok, Balázs (ed.) The 2024 Hungarian EU Presidency, Budapest, Ludovika University Publishing House, 2024
 3. Réti, Mária: The Legal Regulation of Land and Soil Protection – Complexity and the Main Characteristics of the Laws, ANNALES UNIVERSITATIS SCIENTIARUM BUDAPESTINENSIS DE ROLANDO EÖTVÖS NOMINATAE - SECTIO IURIDICA 57
 4. Réti, Mária; Bak, Klára: The Common Agricultural Policy with and without the United Kingdom – CAP Brexit ELTE LAW JOURNAL, 2016
 5. Stefan Möckel: Legal requirements for agricultural and forestry land-use, Nature Conservation 48: 161–184 (2022), doi: 10.3897/natureconservation.48.77899, <https://natureconservation.pensoft.net>
 6. Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030: Bringing nature back into our lives (Brussels, 2020.5.20.COM(2020) 380 final)
 7. Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive)
 8. Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive).
 9. European Commission: Natura 2000 in the Pannonian region; Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2010
 10. Decision 28/2017. (X. 25.) of the Constitutional Court of Hungary
 11. Fundamental Law of Hungary (2011)
 12. Hungarian Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection
 13. Hungarian Act LIII of 1996 on the Protection of Nature
 14. Hungarian Government Decree 269/2007. (X. 18.) on the land use rules for the maintenance of Natura 2000 grasslands
 15. Hungarian Government Decree 275/2004. (X. 8.) on areas of Community interest for nature conservation
 16. 3rd National Biodiversity Strategy of Hungary (8 August 2023) <https://cdn.kormany.hu/uploads/sheets//1/14/141/14141a7031c32aa7f9338edf332e811.pdf>