



DEPUTY COMMISSIONER FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS  
OMBUDSMAN FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

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**Legal summary and enforcement guide on activities affecting Natura 2000 sites (2022)**

The Natura 2000 network, established by the European Union, in addition to the protected natural areas designated under national legislation, also significantly contributes to the biodiversity protection tasks set out in the Fundamental Law of Hungary. It creates a coherent European ecological system, which ensures the conservation of biodiversity through the protection of natural habitat types and wild animal and plant species and it also contributes to maintaining and restoring their favourable conservation status.

The Natura 2000 network is a pan-European system, but its Hungarian components are made up of native plant and animal species, plus habitats, and are therefore formulate also parts of the common heritage of the nation. To protect, maintain and preserve this national heritage for future generations is a constitutional duty of everyone and the State in particular.

The Deputy Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, Ombudsman for Future Generations issued a legal summary and an enforcement guide for activities affecting Natura 2000 sites at the request of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2022. The document summarizes the requirements for Natura 2000 sites arising from the Fundamental Law of Hungary, the practice of the Constitutional Court and the decisions of the Court of Justice of the European Union. He reviewed the procedure and the most important principles for the adoption and authorization of activities affecting Natura 2000 sites as well.

Only activities and investments may be planned and authorised in Natura 2000 areas that do not disproportionately restrict the protection of the interests of future generations to nature, natural resources and a healthy environment. In view of this, it is important that all crucial substantive and procedural rules are observed in accordance with the precautionary principle in the planning and authorisation process of activities affecting Natura 2000 sites.

*The full text of the summary in Hungarian can be found here:*

[https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/2926454/Natura2000\\_jogi\\_osszefoglalo+és+útmutató\\_végleges.pdf](https://www.ajbh.hu/documents/10180/2926454/Natura2000_jogi_osszefoglalo+és+útmutató_végleges.pdf)

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