

Case C-220/99

Commission of the European Communities

v

French Republic

(Failure by a Member State to fulfil its obligations — Directive 92/43/EEC — Conservation of natural habitats — Conservation of wild fauna and flora — Article 4(1) — List of sites — Site information)

Opinion of Advocate General Léger delivered on 3 May 2001	I-5833
Judgment of the Court (Sixth Chamber), 11 September 2001	I-5834

Summary of the Judgment

1. *Actions for failure to fulfil obligations — Subject-matter of the dispute — Determination during the pre-litigation procedure — Initial complaints set out in greater detail in the application instituting proceedings — Whether permissible (Art. 226 EC; Rules of Procedure of the Court, Arts 38(1)(c) and 42)*

2. *Actions for failure to fulfil obligations — Examination of the merits by the Court — Situation to be taken into account — Situation prevailing at the end of the period laid down in the reasoned opinion*
(Art. 226 EC)

3. *Member States — Obligations — Implementation of directives — Failure to fulfil obligations — Justification based on the delay by the Commission in establishing a format intended for the submission of certain data by Member States — Not permissible*
(Art. 226 EC)