

**Question for written answer E-006069/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Sofia Sakorafa (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Urgent need to complete and improve EU environmental protection legislation

The Greek Government has tabled a bill concerning environmental protection, urban planning, sustainable development and forestry regulation.

The proposed legislation would overturn existing forest regulations, authorising harmful activities in forests and on forestland (location of fuel storage tanks, agricultural processing plant, power generation using conventional fuels, excavation of subsoil, etc.) placing at risk biodiversity and ecological balance in protected areas. Furthermore, the problem is compounded by failure to carry out forest mapping or comprehensive, national land registration and planning.

Given that the bill contains no forest protection provisions, thereby facilitating land declassification for urban development purposes, and authorises operations in NATURA protected areas without any compulsory prior impact surveys, and given that the environment does not belong to one country alone but transcends national boundaries and passes from one generation to the next:

Will the Commission say:

1. What measure will it take to complete and improve EU framework legislation to protect NATURA areas?
2. How will it seek to deter the Greek Government from adopting measures running counter to the objectives of EU directives on habitats and biodiversity and on the environment in general?