

**Question for written answer E-009010/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Construction of an airport for drones (RPA) in the Doñana National Park

The Spanish Government intends to construct a test centre for large-size unmanned aircraft, drones (RPA), within the Doñana National Park. This project, which is co-financed using funds from the ERDF, will have a significant detrimental effect on the environment.

It is important to highlight the eminently military purposes for which these drones will be put to use, which run so contrary to the social and development objectives of the most disadvantaged regions, such as Andalucía, which is what ERDF funds should be about.

Furthermore, there is still no common European legislation on this matter, the need for which was emphasised by the former Vice-President of the European Commission, Siim Kallas, and details of which can be found in note MEMO/14/259.

In light of the foregoing, I would like to ask the Commission:

1. What value does the Commission place on the use of ERDF funds for a project with military ends in Andalucía, which is the region with the highest rate of unemployment in the EU?
2. Does this airport pose a risk to the environment due to the fact that it will be located within the Doñana National Park, bordering an area of common interest that is protected by the Natura 2000 network and in an area through which endangered species, such as the Iberian Lynx, pass?
3. Does the Commission feel that there is an urgent need to adopt common legislation aimed at regulating the use of drones, together with the creation, by the EASA, of a set of safety standards?