

**Question for written answer E-010194/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Fernando Maura Barandiarán (ALDE)**

Subject: Natural world heritage in danger at European sites

According to the latest UNESCO report on natural world heritage<sup>1</sup>, a third of UNESCO World Heritage sites valued for their geology, biodiversity and natural beauty are considered to be in danger, although only 8 % are in a critical condition.

Nevertheless, of the sites classified as raising 'significant concern', five are located within three EU Member States: Pirin National Park in Bulgaria; Giant's Causeway and the Causeway Coast in the United Kingdom; and the Doñana National Park, the island of Ibiza and the Canary Islands' Garajonay National Park in Spain. The situation in Spain is particularly critical and is directly connected to the intensive exploitation of these sites for the purposes of industry and tourism.

1. How does the Commission intend to respond to the threat of de-listing, given that being listed as UNESCO natural World Heritage sites is incredibly valuable for the development of these areas?
2. How should these sites be protected by the EU, in accordance with the principle that 'as a reflection of European identity and diversity, the landscape is our living natural and cultural heritage'<sup>2</sup>?

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<sup>1</sup> Released at the World Parks Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature on 13 November 2014.

<sup>2</sup> As stated in the Council of Europe's European Landscape Convention, signed in Florence in 2000.