

**Question for written answer E-010760/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Natura Network

In March 2014, the Galician Regional Government passed Decree 37/2014 declaring the sites of Community interest in Galicia to be special areas of conservation, and endorsing the master plan for Galicia's Natura 2000 Network, twenty-two years after Directive 92/43/EEC established a European ecological network.

A number of associations claim that the plan as approved has significant weaknesses, saying that it would open the door to environmentally impactful activities such as forestry monocultures, increased building areas (up to 50 % more in the areas with the highest level of protection), open-pit mining and aquaculture, even in the areas with the greatest environmental value. It also establishes a different rating for Sites of Community Interest and for Special Protection Areas for Birds, while excluding 27 000 hectares with a high environmental value from the maximum protection category.

1. Is the Commission aware of the master plan drawn up by the Galician Regional Government, and if so what is the Commission's opinion of it?
2. Does the Commission consider it permissible for a Natura Network master plan to open the door to activities with such a major impact as those described?
3. How soon must the specific management plans be drawn up once the master plan has been approved?