Question for written answer E-001610/2015 to the Commission Rule 130 Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Threat to a protected forest

In September 2013 the Commission adopted a Forest Strategy (COM(2013)0659) in which it highlighted the need for sustainable forest management – as it did in Resolutions P6_TA(2006)0068 and P7_TA(2011)0226 – and the Union's global forest responsibility in view of the challenges of climate change.

The content of this Strategy and the above Resolutions appears to be at odds with the company Unión Fenosa Distribución S.L.'s plans to erect the LAT 132KB Lalín - O Irixo (Pontevedra) high-voltage electricity line through a forest of major ecological importance (Fraga de Casas Vellas) which is classified as an area of special protection. Up to this point, the local and regional authorities have ignored requests from ecological groups and neighbourhood associations to divert the electricity line, which would prevent the felling of 2 000 trees.

What action can the Commission take in this case to ensure that the Galician authorities comply with the EU Forest Strategy and safeguard this protected natural space?

1048685.EN PE 548.775