

**Question for written answer E-002357/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Tree-felling in Sicily's Bosco di Gabbara to supply an environmentally unsustainable power station

The planting of eucalyptus trees, which began in 1950, has been the main forestry activity in Sicily, changing and enhancing the island's agricultural and forestry landscape. Ten thousand hectares of woodland in the areas of Mussomeli, Serradifalco, San Cataldo and Milena (province of Caltanissetta) are to be felled and sold to an Italo-German company. This is as a result of an agreement signed by the regional authorities of Sicily and SPER S.P.A., a company that owns an electricity and biomass plant, based in Dittaino (Enna). The woodland is subject to national protection, and the felling areas are covered by a hydrogeological conservation order, as can be seen from the Forestry Information System map. The communal authorities of San Cataldo have ordered verification of all authorisations and compliance with good coppicing techniques, and have put a halt to felling in the Bosco di Gabbara (Gabbara Forest).

Is the European Commission aware of the aforementioned agreement and does it think it is in line with European objectives concerning rural development that encourages the planting and protection of woodland to prevent erosion and flooding?

Is it planning to take action, given the significance of natural resources of this kind that are protected at national and Community level?

Will it be taking any steps to assess any damage caused?