

**Question for written answer E-004655/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Extraction of forest biomass in the Community of Valencia

The Valencian Government has promulgated Decree 58/2013 approving the territorial forest action plan, which promotes the extraction of forest biomass, regardless of the possible environmental impacts on the forest ecosystem.

Given that this activity is 53.69 % funded by EAFRD, and given that:

- extraction will affect natural spaces protected under the Natura 2000 Network,
 - the extraction of biomass will have serious environmental impacts on the forest ecosystem in terms of soil erosion and the risk of desertification, as well as the fertility of the land and its biodiversity,
 - the high risk of ecological degradation may damage economic activities which are based on the landscape value of the territory,
1. Does the Commission consider that this is a breach of Directive 2009/28/EC, specifically article 17.3.b), which exempts protected areas from this activity?
 2. What actions has the Commission considered to enforce this Directive?
 3. Has the Commission considered acting to ensure that the criteria for sustainable development, protection of biodiversity and conservation of the landscape and natural environment, which must govern the granting of EAFRD funds, are not being circumvented by this activity?