

**Question for written answer E-005994/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Gabriel Mato (PPE) and Carlos Iturgaiz (PPE)

Subject: Protection of the laurel forest

The laurel forest, a kind of subtropical jungle found only in the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira, is a true laboratory, unique on Earth, of incalculable value to scientists. These jungles are comprised mainly of endemic species. The laurel forest is also a potential source of natural products of phytosanitary relevance.

A significant effort has been made in recent decades to conserve and expand areas of laurel forest, as well as to improve their scientific use.

1. Could the Commission indicate how the European Union is supporting this effort to conserve the laurel forest in the regions of the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira?
2. Is the Commission considering any possible new actions to reinforce the work being carried out in this area?