

**Question for written answer E-006489/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Gabriel Mato (PPE) and Carlos Iturgaiz (PPE)**

Subject: Soil degradation in the EU and in the Canary Islands

The aim of the thematic strategy for soil protection in the EU is to protect the soil and to preserve its ability to perform its ecological, economic, social and cultural functions. The strategy includes the creation of a legal framework that will allow for the protection and sustainable use of soil, the integration of soil protection policy into national and Community policies, the strengthening of the knowledge base and greater public awareness.

According to some studies, over 16 % of the EU's soil is suffering from some form of degradation as a result of human activity.

These figures are even more worrying in regions such as the Canary Islands where, according to a study by the University of La Laguna, 43.4 % of the soil is suffering from severe degradation.

What action is the Commission taking to tackle soil degradation in the EU?

Does the Commission have, or is it planning, some form of specific programme to address this problem in the Canary Islands?