

**Question for written answer E-012584/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Blanco López (S&D)

Subject: Fires in Natura 2000 areas in Galicia

Galicia has recently suffered from a number of fires affecting sites of high ecological importance, protected as part of the Natura 2000 network. According to initial estimations, up to 800 hectares of protected areas have been destroyed by fire in Navia, Folgoso do Courel and Padrenda, and one particularly valuable locality has been lost, namely the valley of the river Rao in the municipality of Navia (in Spain's Lugo province), which used to be home to Galicia's only arbutus forests and is also used by bears migrating from Asturias to Los Ancares.

Given the seriousness of these events, could the Commission indicate whether the Galician regional government has been in contact with the Community authorities regarding the impact of the fires referred to in Natura 2000 areas? What measures can be implemented from the European Union, or what lines of support are open to these regions in terms of seeking help in their recovery?