

**Question for written answer E-003845/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: NATO airfield in the Bardenas Reales

The firing range in the 42 500 hectare Bardenas Reales stretches out over the southeast of Navarre and three towns in Aragon, encompassing a total of 19 municipalities inside a national park and world biosphere reserve. In terms of area, it is NATO's largest range in Europe.

More than 30 serious accidents have been recorded there and local residents within a radius of more than 50 kilometres are forced to live with military practices in their airspace.

Bearing in mind its response to written question E-008604/2015, does the Commission think that excluding military zones from the Directive on environmental noise exposes residents near the airfield to noise levels higher than the maximum permitted in equivalent populated areas in Spain which are not located near a military base?

To use the directive on environmental liability as an analogy, would environmental damage exceeding permitted levels be allowed to take place in similar national conservation areas?

Does it think that the presence of a NATO military facility in EU territory, such as the one in the Bardenas Reales, with its warlike and imperialist aims, is compatible with the EU goal to promote peace (Article 3 TEU)?