

**Question for written answer E-004300/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Eucalyptus trees at archaeological heritage sites

The northern part of the province of Lugo is home to around 500 archaeological sites that are listed and protected by the Galician Government. According to information from the associations Mariña Patrimonio and ADEGA, half of these sites contain plantations of eucalyptus trees and, of the remaining 250, around 150 sites are located in expansion areas for *Eucalyptus nitens*, more commonly known as shining gum.

Driven by the economic interests of logging companies, the intensive planting and subsequent felling of these trees is damaging dozens of cultural heritage sites, including palaeolithic settlements, megalithic monuments, fortified Iron Age settlements and Roman and medieval remains. Such a situation is at odds with the Commission's communication from July 2014, entitled 'Towards an integrated approach to cultural heritage for Europe', which highlighted concerns about exploiting these sites for economic growth. Similarly, the Council's Conclusions of December 2014 on participatory governance of cultural heritage drew attention to the key role that civil society should play in democratic and progressive heritage management, which has been sorely lacking in this case.

Will the Commission take steps to ensure that economic activities of this kind are no longer carried out in archaeological protection areas?