

**Question for written answer E-005655/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Gas storage - Doñana National Park

The Doñana National Park (Andalusia) is the largest nature reserve in Europe and is classified as a World Heritage site by Unesco. However in recent years Doñana has been coming under attack in ways that could jeopardise its future survival.

The Commission has already, in 2014, instituted proceedings against Spain in Case No 2014/2118 for infringement of EU water regulations by the 'over-exploitation of aquifers'.

On 10 March 2016, the acting Ministry of Industry declared that four projects by the company Gas Natural to extract and store gas within the National Park are in the public interest. The first compulsory land purchase orders began on 7 July 2016.

Both the municipal council that owns the land (Almonte, Huelva) and the Regional Government of Andalusia, as well as neighbourhood and environmental associations are all strongly opposed to this gas project.

- Has the Commission asked the Spanish Government for information about this project, or is it planning to do so?
- Does the Commission consider this project to be compatible with the EU's objectives in regard to its climate change strategy and to comply with EU regulations on environmental protection?