

**Question for written answer E-005709/2016  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Tree-felling in Gavà

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora defines the coastal stands of the Mediterranean maritime pine, *Pinus pinaster*, as a habitat of Community interest. One of the few surviving coastal stands is situated in the Llobregat Delta (Barcelona Province), more specifically in the municipality of Gavà, where this habitat extends over several tracts of land. The Department of the Environment of the Generalitat of Catalonia has made an inventory of the pine forest of Gavà, whose ecological status it has assessed as poor and which it identified, in accordance with Directive 67/97/EC, as a priority habitat for conservation action (code 2270). On 15 May 2016, the town council of Gavà felled 160 of the 191 pine trees on one of the tracts of land referred to above (surface area 3720 m<sup>2</sup> according to the land registry), which is now council property, thereby reducing the area covered by trees by 60%. Under the council's forest management programme, at least 93 Mediterranean *Pinus pinaster* trees should have been left, in other words three times as many as were left.<sup>1, 2, 3, 4</sup>

1. Is the Commission aware of the instances of the non-compliance with the Habitats Directive in this area?
2. Does it intend to open an investigation?

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.gencat.cat/mediamb/habitats/fitxeshtm/16\\_2982-=16\\_2983-.htm](http://www.gencat.cat/mediamb/habitats/fitxeshtm/16_2982-=16_2983-.htm).

<sup>2</sup> <http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/habitatsreport/?group=ZHVuZXMgaGFiaXRhdHM%3D&country=ES&region=MED>.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.naciodigital.cat/ecodiari/noticia/9791/tala/indiscriminada/pineda/gava/es/denunciara/ue>.

<sup>4</sup> <http://centredestudis.gava.ppe.entitats.diba.cat/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2016/07/Pla-de-Gestio-Forestal-de-Gava.pdf>.