

**Question for written answer E-000875/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Inácio Faria (PPE)**

Subject: Serious environmental damage to the Portuguese coast

Given the serious environmental damage to the Portuguese coast, I would like clarification on the following.

The National Ecological Reserve, a biophysical structure which integrates areas that are protected on account of their ecological value and sensitivity or exposure and susceptibility to natural hazards, has been severely scaled down – by 68% in the municipality of Alcácer do Sal and 76% in the municipality of Grândola – to make way for real estate and tourism projects. This reduction affects large areas of the Natura 2000 network.

It has also led to concern over areas for recharging aquifers and areas susceptible to pollution, as it aggravates the risk of drought and soil erosion.

An inspection by the Ministry of the Environment concluded that of 140 urban operations in Brejos da Carregueira (Alcácer do Sal), only 3 comply with legal regulations. The operations constituted ‘an urban expansion based on an illegal blueprint that, between 1995 and 2012, more than tripled the waterproofed area’, in violation of the REN and Natura 2000 network rules.

Is the Commission aware of these unlawful situations which are affecting natural values, the protection of water resources and the Natura network? If so, what action is it taking to respond to such a serious environmental attack?