

**Question for written answer E-003514/2017
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Mine in the Sierra de Ávila mountain range

In the last few months, several open-cast mining projects have been coming to light which are affecting various provinces within the Autonomous Communities of Castilla y León and Castilla-La Mancha, in the centre of Spain. The 'Leito' project, No 1122, aims to operate a feldspar mine in the Sierra de Ávila mountain range, an environmentally and culturally valuable region situated immediately to the west of the city of Ávila, in Castilla y León.

1. Given the proximity of this mining project to protected areas within the Natura 2000 network, as well as the SPA area ES4110086 and the SAC area ES4110112, 'Sierra de Ávila holm-oak wood', does the Commission know what procedures are being followed by the Castilla y León regional government (Spain) as part of the administrative authorisation process for the project?
2. Does the Commission know if the impact of the project is being taken into consideration in critical areas such as the imperial eagle protection plan (a species in danger of extinction), as well as the impact on other protected species (wolf, red kite or Russian chequered butterfly), and on habitats of Community interest? Are any of these areas prioritised?