

**Question for written answer E-005776/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Polish Government defiance following action brought by the Commission before the European Court of Justice, with regard to logging in the Białowieża forest

The Białowieża forest, which straddles the border between Poland and Belarus, is one of Europe's last primeval forests and is home to some of the last wild European bison, among other species. This forested area was declared a UNESCO world heritage site in 1979 and the Polish part of the forest covers approximately 100 km².

On 1 January 2017, a legal change in how the forest is managed entered into force which, in turn, led to indiscriminate logging in the 83% of the Polish part of the forest which is not expressly protected.

The Commission launched an infringement procedure and on 13 July 2017 it called for the European Court of Justice (ECJ) to implement preventative measures against this Polish Government decision which then led to the ECJ ordering an immediate halt to the logging. However, the Polish Government has ignored this measure and logging in the forest continues.

What action will the Commission now take in response to Poland's defiance of this order?

Will the Commission urge the ECJ to take additional urgent action, given that Poland could cause irreparable damage to the forest in the time that it takes to respond to the judgment?

Will the Commission keep Parliament informed on developments in the case?