

**Question for written answer E-006571/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Javier Couso Permuy (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: No environmental licence for the Corta Pastora opencast mine in Leon

Members of the Spanish public have reported an environmental offence at the Alto Bernesga biosphere reserve. They point out that the planned expansion of the Corta Pastora (Leon) opencast coal mine will damage the environment and also the dignity of people living in the reserve as this opencast mine does not comply with legal parameters.

There have been complaints about defects and irregularities noted in the environmental impact study ever since 2013, and again more recently in 2016 and 2017. These complaints range from inadequate technical teams and protected sites being smaller than they should be, to damage done to Natura 2000 sites and jeopardising the habitat of the brown bear (animal in danger of extinction), to name just a few.

1. Does the Commission know about this case, which puts both the biosphere reserve and its residents at risk?
2. Acting for the European Union, what action will it take with regard to this case to demand that Spain respect and comply with EU environmental legislation?