

**Question for written answer E-001811/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Carolina Punset (ALDE)

Subject: Possible breach of EU environmental protection directives at a lithium mine in Cáceres (Spain)

On 24 November 2017, Tecnología Extremeña del Litio submitted for public consultation in the municipality of Cáceres the restoration plan from the request for mining-exploration permit Ampliación Valdeflópez, no 10C10359-00. The 1 282-hectare research area, in which surveys are expected to be carried out which require rural roads to be opened and changed, is part of the Important Bird Area (IBA) 295 Llanos de Cáceres and Trujillo and is surrounded by Special Protection Areas (SPAs) ES0000071 Llanos de Cáceres and ES0000422 Colonias de Cernícalo Primilla de Cáceres, which was studied with the help of LIFE funds (LIFE15 NAT/ES/001016).

- 1) Is the Commission aware that the above exploration has not undergone an environmental assessment, a requirement laid down in Article 6(3) in connection with Article 7 of Directive 92/43/EEC and Articles 2 and 3 of Directive 2009/147/EC, to establish whether that mining activity is compatible with the conservation objectives for species, habitats and sites in the Natura 2000 network?
- 2) Given the lack of publicity as regards the documents concerning the above exploration project, a proposed activity under Article 6(2) of the Aarhus Convention of 1998, does the Commission take the view that the above article has been breached?