

**Question for written answer P-009029/2014/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea (ALDE)

Subject: Environmental impact assessment in the Cabanyal neighbourhood

The Cabanyal, in Valencia, is a historic 19th century neighbourhood which was declared a heritage site in 1993. In July 1998 Valencia city council approved an urban development plan (PEPRI) to extend Blasco Ibáñez Avenue to the sea, involving the destruction of over 500 buildings and around 1500 homes. On 29 December 2009 the Ministry of Culture halted the PEPRI on the grounds that it would ruin the historic neighbourhood. The Valencian regional government lodged an appeal against this decision, which was rejected in July 2014 by Spain's Supreme Court.

After 16 years of legal battles, Valencia city council has recently presented a modified version of the PEPRI. Despite the characteristics, size (over 670 000 m²) and location of the project, the authorities see no need to carry out an assessment of its environmental impact, as required under Directive 2011/92/EU.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission consider that an urban planning project such as the one described, in a coastal area, should be subject to environmental impact assessment?
2. Has the Commission been informed of the reasons justifying its exemption from the requirements of the above Directive?