

**Question for written answer P-001270/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nessa Childers (S&D)

Subject: Structural protection works in sand dune areas

1. Can the Commissioner outline what structural protection works are permitted to protect residential dwellings built on or beside sand dunes located in a Special Protection Area/Special Area of Conservation and, specifically, one which has been classified as a Ramsar European site?

In particular, I am seeking information for residents living near dunes located in a SPA/SAC on the north Dublin coastline, at Portrane, County Dublin.¹ This coastal area has experienced severe coastal erosion over the last few years. The erosion is affecting the dunes which, in turn, are allowing the sea water to reach into the gardens of houses. Both the local authority and residents are exploring ways to both protect the dunes and the dwellings, without damaging the ecosystem within the special area of conservation.

2. However, this ecosystem itself is being threatened by rising sea levels. Could the Commission also recommend best practice in other Member States?

¹ More information available in the Fingal County Council Coastal Erosion Risk Management Study (Portrane - Rush)