

**Question for written answer E-002591/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Creative Science Park strategic programme IV

In December 2009, the Management Committee of the Central Portugal Regional Operational Programme (PORCentro) approved the strategic programme for a Creative Science Park (Parque de Ciência e Inovação – PCI), an infrastructure which it proposes to build in the municipal districts of Aveiro and Ílhavo, with an investment of over EUR 28 million, out of which EUR15 million is to be cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The local population rejects the siting of the project and has formed a committee (CIDIHC). The polemic also involves an environmental association (Quercus) and the local and regional authorities. Construction of the project will destroy around 35 hectares of highly productive agricultural land and affect part of the Ria de Aveiro Special Protection Area (SPA), which forms part of the Natura 2000 network, as well as areas within the National Ecological Reserve (REN) and the National Agricultural Reserve (RAN). A number of complaints have been made to the Commission, particularly by the afore-mentioned environmental association.

1. How does the Commission view the above-mentioned complaints?
2. What action has it taken or does it intend to take in response to them?