

**Question for written answer E-004246/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Suspension of work on the Paseo de San Telmo in Puerto de la Cruz (Canary Islands)

As already reported in my question E-000684/2014, the planned Paseo de San Telmo project in Puerto de la Cruz will have a series of adverse effects on the town. These include the removal of a stone wall which has significant historical value and protects the road from strong tides, and the destruction of a work by the renowned artist César Manrique. Because of this in fact, a court has halted provisionally demolition of the San Telmo wall, citing circumstances of 'special urgency', as it felt that the developer, Cabildo de Tenerife, had not taken into consideration the most recent reports sent to it demonstrating the wall's importance in terms of history and heritage.

Although work has been suspended, the plan is to replace the historic stone wall with materials such as wood and metal which will not protect – at one of the island's known flood-risk points – passers-by or the adjacent dwellings. What is more, the project has not been assessed on its environmental impact and no studies have been conducted into the impact the movement of lorries will have on an adjoining historic hermitage.

In its answer to my question, the Commission stated that: 'According to a report prepared by the Cabildo de Tenerife [...] the accessibility requirements of persons with reduced mobility have been fulfilled and all individual and collective claims have been taken into consideration'. However, it is my understanding that at least two associations for the disabled have reported that as the staircase will remain in place, the project does not comply with established accessibility measures. They regard it as discriminatory and are pressing for certification of its accessibility. Furthermore complaints filed by some two thousand residents were dismissed without explanation. Residents will hold another protest on 5 April to demonstrate their opposition to this project.

Does the Commission not agree that there should be an environmental impact assessment for this project? Similarly, could the Commission say on what basis the authorities can claim that accessibility requirements and residents' opinions have been taken into account? Does the Commission intend to make available the report by Cabildo de Tenerife to which it referred?