

**Question for written answer E-005192/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Science and Technology Park on the edge of the Ria de Aveiro (Portugal)

There are plans to build a new industrial park, the Science and Technology Park, in Aveiro, which is to be located on the edge of the Ria de Aveiro, one of Europe's most important wetlands, and which is, according to the promoters, to be 80% financed by Community funds, even though it is public knowledge that the European Union does not finance projects using agricultural land.

We have drawn the Commission's attention to this matter in previous questions (E-000362/2012 and E-012694/2013). However, we have now received new information that suggests abuse of the authorisations granted for change of use of land within the National Agricultural Reserve (RAN). The intention behind this situation/fraud is to hand over to a company (PCI-SA – a public-private partnership set up for the purpose) that owns nothing, property with huge potential for development, via the purchase or expropriation of more than 30 hectares of working agricultural land. It turns out that this land, classified for the RAN as class A1 land (parcels of land highly suitable for general agricultural use), is precisely where the Science and Technology Park is to be built – in other words, this land will be destroyed if no-one puts a stop to construction on the planned site.

1. We are aware that the Commission is not responsible for breaches of legislation governing the RAN, which is not within its area of competence, but does the Commission not think that there is also here a failure to comply with Directive 2004/35/EC on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage?
2. In its answer to our most recent question on the subject, the Commission told us that the Portuguese authorities were going to inform it, by the end of January, of any new developments concerning this case. What clarifications can the Commission provide, now that it has this information?
3. In the same answer, the Commission also told us that it would be investigating complaints alleging incorrect application of EU environmental legislation. What conclusions did it reach?
4. Does the Commission still think the choice of site for the Science and Technology Park is acceptable and does it consider this project eligible for co-funding?