

**Question for written answer E-001654/2019
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Hottentot fig and pampas grass in A Lanzada (Sanxenxo)

Hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) are invasive plant species that constitute a serious threat in Galicia and were, therefore, included in Spain's list of invasive exotic species under Royal Decree 630/2013 of 2 August 2013.

A Lanzada beach in the municipality of Sanxenxo is bordered by dunes, an area of outstanding natural beauty and a protected nature reserve in the Natura 2000 Network. The reserve includes special habitats with a wide diversity of both flora and fauna, but native plants are being crowded out by the aforementioned invasive varieties.

Programmes to eradicate them have proved unsuccessful and the dunes and paths to beaches have become overgrown with invasive plants. Furthermore, the chemicals used to burn these plants, when applied in places in direct contact with the sea, are extremely likely to cause water pollution.

(1) Is the Commission considering including hottentot fig and pampas grass on the list of invasive alien species of Union concern?

(2) What protocols should be followed for the elimination of invasive plants from the Natura Network?