

**Question for written answer E-003514/2019  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Ernest Urtasun** (Verts/ALE)

**Subject:** Impact of the Chira-Soria pumped-storage hydroelectric plant on EU-protected areas in the Canary Islands (Spain)

In Gran Canaria, the local government (Cabildo) has commissioned Red Eléctrica de España to build and operate a new power plant that will damage flora and fauna protected by EU legislation. The project will harm Natura 2000 sites on the island of Gran Canaria by discharging 2 700 m<sup>3</sup> of brine onto sea grass (*Cymodocea nodosa*) plains and green algae colonies in the Mogán coastal strip special area of conservation (SAC) (ES7010017), affecting protected species such as common bottlenose dolphins, Atlantic spotted dolphins, short-beaked common dolphins, Risso's dolphins, fin whales, loggerhead sea turtles and green sea turtles.

A 30-km stretch of gorge will also be affected by the installation of pipes and pumping stations and high- and medium-voltage power lines. This will affect protected areas including: Macizo de Tauro II (SAC ES7011004); Tauro (SAC and SPA ES0000113); El Nublo II (SAC ES7010039) and Ayagaures and Pílancones (SPA ES0000110).

1. Is the Commission aware of the impact this project will have on sites of Community importance in Gran Canaria?
2. What action will the Commission take?