

Question for written answer E-004143/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
Ignazio Corrao (NI)

Subject: 'Biviere e Macconi di Gela' Natura 2000 site: site clearance and use of bioplastics in agriculture

The plastic that farms use in polytunnels is causing serious environment damage at Natura 2000 sites ITA050001 'Biviere e Macconi di Gela' and ITA050012 'Torre Manfreda, Biviere di Gela, Piana di Gela'.

Polytunnel waste is often disposed of in these areas by burning it, as is waste produced by criminal gangs trading illegally in polluted plastic and the forced collection and illegal disposal of plastic used to cover polytunnels.

It is the polytunnel's plastic cover that is particularly responsible for pollution of the soil, aquifer and food, jeopardising the public's health by exposing them to pollutants.

The Macconi coastline in particular, known for its sand dunes, is covered in polytunnel waste such as plastic, frames, pesticide containers, cement blocks and polystyrene.

This is an ecological disaster in an area that is both protected by EU legislation and suffering coastal erosion. Site clearance work is needed urgently.

In light of this:

1. Is the Commission aware of the current state of these two Natura 2000 sites?
2. What steps will it take to launch work on clearing and containing these sites and enabling their environment to recover?
3. Would it be willing to promote the use of bioplastics in agriculture by giving farmers support and incentives to use them?