

**Question for written answer E-001044/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Possible creation of new quarry zones in Larnaka

The Cyprus Geological Survey Department has announced the possible creation of new quarry zones in national forestland or next to NATURA 2000 conservation areas in Larnaca. According to those who have studied the problem, this would involve the felling of 6 900 trees in the best-case scenario. Work on this is expected to commence after 15-20 years, depending on economic growth rates in Cyprus, since existing quarries will be able to meet demand until then. However, it appears that the Geological Survey Department has failed to factor in a number of major developments. In particular, nationwide consumption of aggregates is down (demand having fallen from 11.5 million tonnes in 2004 and a record of 14.2 million tonnes in 2008 to 3.9 million tonnes in 2015, 73% down from 2008, and 8 million tonnes in 2019, 56% of the 2008 figure). The affected communities are therefore against the proposed new quarry zones.

In view of this:

1. Can the Commission say whether it is customary to plan such changes in land use for which there is no immediate need?
2. Is the location of quarries on forestland and near residential areas in line with the Commission's environment and public health protection objectives?