

**Question for written answer E-006173/2020/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Natura 2000 conservation area in the Valencian Country under threat from road plan

Natura 2000 sites are conservation areas that enjoy special protection across Europe. Their characteristics have been recognised in EU legislation since 1992, and more recently in Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds.

Parc Natural del Túria, in the Valencian Country, is a site managed by the Valencian Government. It has been designated a special protection area for birds, a site of community importance and a special area of conservation, all of which are now under threat from the CV-377 road project.

Despite the fact that the administration widely acknowledges the need to protect biodiversity, the Valencian Ministry for Natural Environment has accepted an old environmental impact assessment for this project that does not comply with the current regulations.

In July 2019, the Commission urged the Spanish state to adopt further measures to improve the protection of the Natura 2000 sites.

1. Is the Commission aware of the Valencian Government's plan to carry out this road infrastructure project, which clashes with EU legislation on Natura 2000?
2. Does it agree that the environmental impact assessments need to be kept up to date with EU legislation in order to ensure that Natura 2000 sites are effectively protected?