

**Question for written answer E-003213/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Risk of irreversible damage to the Albufera freshwater lagoon as a result of the Port of Valencia extension

The Albufera freshwater lagoon and its marine gulf, a Natura 2000 protected area, has been damaged as a result of the Port of Valencia extension, from which it is under serious threat. The now suspended extension work, which began on the sea wall in 2007 and is not directly linked to the management of the Albufera lagoon, is gravely affecting the shoreline protecting the wetland from salinisation and from disappearing, stemming the flow of north-south marine sediments (the shadow effect) and preventing its natural regeneration, making it vulnerable to salt water during storms. On 20 January 2017, the Port Authority acknowledged the causal link between the extension and the damage to the beaches protecting the Albufera and noted that it was impossible for the damage to be repaired. In addition, there are no social or economic reasons for the extension, as the port is among the largest and most efficient in Europe.

In view of the above:

Does the Commission intend to stop the expansion of the Port of Valencia and urge the authorities to take down the 2007 sea wall, thereby applying the precautionary principle and taking preventive action and rectifying the damage as recognised in Article 191 TFEU and in the second subparagraph of Article 6(4) of Directive 92/43/EEC?