

**Question for written answer E-004045/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Gusmão (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left)

Subject: Construction in the heart of Ria Formosa Natural Park

In Caiana (Cabanas de Tavira), the Left Bloc has ascertained that, at the top of the main dune, work is being done that is changing the terrain profile and destroying vegetation cover and century-old trees and involves large-scale soil movements, creating slopes and ditches in the heart of Ria Formosa Natural Park (part of the Natura 2000 network). According to the Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF), the businessman responsible for the works never applied for permission to carry them out, even the removal of vegetation cover, and administrative offence proceedings have been launched against him. In 2021 he has repeated his misconduct, disregarding a block on some of the works, which led the ICNF to report his latest assault on the environment to the Public Prosecutor's Office. The Left Bloc has already called on the Government to investigate all liabilities. If it is confirmed that the environment has been damaged in those sensitive areas of the Ria Formosa Natural Park, the offender must be obliged not only to stop the works but also to restore the areas to their natural state before the works began. It is unacceptable that the biodiversity of sensitive areas of our territory continues to be assaulted through unbridled agricultural expansion. What will the Commission do to bring its policies into line with the recently adopted biodiversity strategy?