

**Question for written answer E-004422/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Mindelo Ornithological Reserve

The Mindelo Ornithological Reserve is Portugal's oldest protected area, classified as such in 1957. In 2009, it was relabelled the 'Vila do Conde Coastal Regional Protected Landscape and Mindelo Ornithological Reserve'.

It is not only the birdlife that makes the area unique, but its amphibians too. Indeed, there have been sightings of 81 bird species, including 57 with a conservation status, and 14 of the 17 amphibian species that exist in Portugal are also found here.

The surrounding urban fabric and road network is placing real strain on the reserve. What is more, possible environmental mistakes have been made, such as the felling of native trees, the widening of rural roads, changes to the land morphology through soil verticalisation, and the use of noisy machinery during nesting season.

We believe that action must be taken to properly conserve the flora and fauna of the Mindelo Ornithological Reserve.

In the light of the above, what will the Commission do to encourage Portugal to step up and enhance environmental conservation in the Mindelo Ornithological Reserve?