

**Question for written answer E-005096/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The Valmuel-Tarragona-Begues extra high voltage transmission line

The 400 kilovolt Valmuel-Begues extra high voltage (EHV) line is a privately owned project, exclusively used by its owner. It will be 180 kilometres long, with 500 towers that are 50 metres and 70 metres in height.

It will cross through lagoons of special biological interest and areas of high natural value that are part of the Natura 2000 network. Negative effects on protected habitats will be unavoidable. It will also affect croplands of high agro-ecological value and farm infrastructures.

However, new renewable energy production facilities much closer to Tarragona and Barcelona are about to receive authorisation.

1. Does the Commission find it appropriate to transmit electricity such a long distance, through a private company, when new energy parks much closer to mass consumption centres are pending approval?
2. How will the Commission respond to the negative impacts on areas included in Natura 2000 and on species of vegetation and fauna classified as vulnerable?
3. Does the Commission consider it rational that although many municipalities design and implement ecofriendly development strategies — frequently funded by the EU — they must compete directly with infrastructures such as this EHV line, which undermine the development of such strategies?