

**Question for written answer E-005541/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Annika Bruna (ID), **Elena Lizzi** (ID), **Ioannis Lagos** (NI), **Gunnar Beck** (ID), **Elżbieta Kruk** (ECR),
Javier Nart (Renew)

Subject: Restoring peatlands

Peatlands, which are very extensive in Scotland but also in other European regions, as well as in Canada and Russia, are a humid environment with huge carbon storage, not least thanks to one plant: sphagnum.

They now store almost a third of the world's soil carbon but comprise only 3% of its land area. In ideal conditions, peat can develop and accumulate to a depth of over several metres.

However, drainage represents a threat to sphagnum peatlands: formerly so the peat could be used as heating material and now when we tap the groundwater that feeds them. Similarly, nitrogen fertilisers, which are ecotoxic above a certain quantity, leach into these areas and destroy the sphagnum.

As a result, 50% of the EU's peatlands are degraded, which turns their role in terms of climate on its head: damaged peatlands release the carbon they contain into the atmosphere. Globally, damaged peatlands are responsible for 5 to 6% of man-made greenhouse gas emissions annually.

1. Is the Commission aware of the importance of peatlands in reducing greenhouse gas emissions?
2. Is it financing actions to restore peatlands?