

**Question for written answer E-000476/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Impact of climate change on the removal capacity of natural carbon sinks and allocation of national targets (LULUCF)

Carbon sinks play an essential role in the transition to climate neutrality. The proposed Regulation amending Regulation (EU) 2018/841 sets a European net removals target for 2030 of the equivalent of 310 million tonnes of CO₂ and national targets based on 2016, 2017 and 2018 greenhouse gas inventories and managed land areas.

1. In Spain, the trend over the last three years (2018-2020) in removal capacity has been a downward one, owing to the impacts of climate change, the lack of land which is convertible into forest in a manner which is advantageous for landowners and the risk of desertification due to increased aridity and erosion. Does the Commission believe that countries which are increasingly arid and which suffer from rising temperatures, that are more likely to lead to desertification, can meet the targets proposed?
2. Why did the Commission not take these factors into account when allocating national targets?
3. How does the Commission explain that, in the context of increasing the EU's sinks and their removal capacity to 310 million tonnes, there are countries with national removal targets that are lower than the current reference value in Regulation (EU) 2018/841?