1. The Commission does not have evidence to conclude that the military activities at issue have significant negative effects on the Natura 2000 sites of Bardenas Reales and has not identified any breach of the Habitats Directive. The Commission does not consider this facility in breach of the principles included in article 3(1) Treaty of the EU (TEU). On the contrary, article 3(5) TEU states that the EU shall contribute to the protection of its citizens. Military exercises may also contribute to the operational capacity of the common security and defence policy as referred to in article 42 TEU.

2. The Commission has no indication that the existence of the Bardenas Reales firing and bombing range would be in breach of the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) regulation, as amended by the Commission Regulation (EU) No 2021/57 restricting lead in gunshot in or around wetlands.

3. Decisions regarding military facilities are taken by Member States. The Commission does not have any plan to support the decommissioning of this facility.

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1 Special Area of Conservation ‘Bardenas Reales’ (Site code: ES2200037), Special Protection ‘Rincón del Bu-La Nasa-Tripazul’ (Site code: ES0000172) and ‘El Plano-Blanca alta’ (Site code: ES0000171).