

**Question for written answer E-001113/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Destruction of dune system of the Praia da Vitória, Terceira Island, Azores

The dune ecosystems of the Azores have been reduced to just two small areas, one of these being on the Praia da Vitória on Terceira Island. These coastal formations and ecosystems are known to play a key role in coastal protection, as they act as a buffer between land and sea and promote sand retention, and also serve as a refuge for a number of species which depend on the dunes to survive.

The Municipal Council of the Praia da Vitória is constructing a building (housing a bar and changing facilities) out of bricks and concrete on the Praia da Riviera, and so destroying a well-established dune system. This project is being carried out in an area classified as an ecological reserve at risk of coastal flooding. No environmental impact study was drawn up and no environmental inspection performed before the green light was given.

Given that the EU has described climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss as the greatest challenges of our time, what steps will the Commission take to encourage the Portuguese authorities to comply with EU legislation on water, coastline protection and the conservation of natural habitats and wild flora and fauna, thereby halting the destruction of the dune system on the Praia da Vitória?