

**Question for written answer E-001147/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Aurélia Beigneux (ID)

Subject: Action plan for wetlands in the EU

France published its fourth national wetlands plan, covering the period 2022 to 2026, on 15 March 2022. In this, the State undertakes to restore some wetlands, acquire others and create new protected areas.

Wetlands, it should be remembered, are important ecosystems for the development of endemic European species. More importantly still, they are natural carbon sinks. They may only cover 3 % of the world's land area but they store two times more carbon than forests.

At the end of a fact-finding mission launched in October 2021, France's General Council for the environment and sustainable development had identified 18 sites as France's most symbolic wetlands. France has now released a budget of one million euro to put this plan into action.

Experts agree that wetlands in Europe are being severely damaged by the pressures of human activity and water courses drying up.

My question is twofold:

1. Will the Commission, under the umbrella of its environment policy, provide France with financial assistance for this project?
2. Does it have an action plan, complete with costs, for the EU's wetlands?