

**Question for written answer E-001479/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

**Subject:** Works on the Ginjas trail jeopardising Unesco world heritage status

The Ginjas trail in Madeira was built more than 40 years ago to connect Ginjas to the summit of the mountain. Now the regional government of Madeira wants to pave the trail, already a scar cutting through the Laurissilva forest, which, in addition to being a UNESCO world heritage site, forms part of the Council of Europe's biogenetic reserve and the Natura 2000 Network. The environmental organisation Quercus has called for the environmental impact statement to be thrown out owing to procedural irregularities, meanwhile in late March, the government officially opened the tender procedure for the project. Aside from the effects on the environment, environmentalists fear that the forest will lose its UNESCO heritage status. Nonetheless, the president of the regional government, Miguel Albuquerque, has stated that the works will go ahead whether people 'like it or not', thus ignoring the opinions of experts and organisations. The Regional Secretary for Agriculture has already confirmed that the project will be financed entirely by European funds (EUR 11.7 million).

1. Is the Commission aware of this misuse of EU funds in an area protected at European level and a world heritage site?
2. What does it intend to do to put an end to this process before it is too late?