

**Question for written answer E-001912/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Sylwia Spurek (Verts/ALE), **Anja Hazekamp** (The Left), **Francisco Guerreiro** (Verts/ALE), **Rosa D'Amato** (Verts/ALE), **Jutta Paulus** (Verts/ALE), **Cornelia Ernst** (The Left), **Maria Noichl** (S&D), **Henrike Hahn** (Verts/ALE), **Irena Joveva** (Renew), **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield** (Verts/ALE), **Malin Björk** (The Left), **Róża Thun und Hohenstein** (Renew), **César Luena** (S&D), **María Soraya Rodríguez Ramos** (Renew)

Subject: Construction of a wall on the Polish-Belarusian border in the Białowieża Forest

On 8 February 2022, more than 1 800 scientists and over 160 NGOs from all over the world addressed a letter to the Commission urging it to stop the construction of a wall on the Polish-Belarusian border.

Construction of the wall will impact protected and valuable natural areas, including Natura 2000 sites. Already during its construction phase, the wall is having a detrimental impact on the conservation status of species and habitats. Populations of large animals such as European bison, Eurasian lynx, moose, deer and wolves are being negatively affected. Also, during the investment planning process, no environmental impact assessment was carried out for any of the Natura 2000 sites, including the Białowieża Forest, which is a clear violation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

1. Has the Commission received a reply from the Polish authorities concerning compliance of the investment with EU environmental law? If so, what was the answer and how and when does the Commission intend to reply?
2. Does the Commission intend to take any action to halt the construction, at least until the environmental impact assessment has been carried out, as required by EU law? If so, please indicate specifically what these actions will be and when they will be carried out.