Question for written answer E-002564/2022 to the Commission

Rule 138

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Subject: Risks for renewable projects in Valencia

Thirteen Spanish regions are drafting regulations with the aim of ensuring that areas protected under the Natura 2000 network do not hinder the development of photovoltaic and wind power plant projects, under Royal Decree Law 6/2022 on urgent measures in the light of the invasion of Ukraine. Several environmental associations in Valencia have expressed their alarm in relation to some 90 projects that affect their municipalities.

If these projects adversely affect the integrity of areas within the Natura 2000 network, damage natural habitats and the habitats of species, cause significant disturbance to species that were the reason for areas being granted protected status, or fail to comply with strict protection rules outside Natura 2000 areas, Spain would be incorrectly implementing EU law.

With that in mind:

- 1. Is the Commission aware of the existence of these projects?
- 2. What action does the Commission plan to take, alongside the Spanish authorities, to guarantee that the introduction of renewables will not negatively affect the conservation of biodiversity, especially within protected natural areas?