

**Question for written answer E-002902/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Protection of the El Tiemblo chestnut forest

El Tiemblo is a native chestnut forest in the Valle de Iruelas Nature Reserve, which is part of the Natura 2000 network. This unique forest, over 3 000 years old, has been suffering for more than a decade from unsustainable management by the responsible administrations at regional and local level. Among the causes of its rapid deterioration are mass tourism (more than 20 000 visitors in a single month), the indiscriminate passage of cattle and the use of heavy forestry machinery, which are altering the conditions that this unique and fragile ecosystem needs to survive, making it vulnerable and clearly putting it at risk of extinction.

A number of scientists have warned of the seriousness of its degradation and the need for action.

1. What measures can the Commission take to ensure the conservation of the El Tiemblo chestnut forest and other forests in similar situations that are part of the Natura 2000 network?
2. Is the Commission planning to take any action to ensure that the responsible public authorities manage the forest properly, reconciling its tourist use with its protection and conservation?