

**Question for written answer E-003515/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: Soil protection and the autonomy of local bodies in the municipality of Piélagos

Cantabrian land law allows the establishment of large infrastructure in agricultural or forestry areas by means of PSIRs (Plan singular de Interés Regional – Individual Regional Interest Plans), provided that they serve a regional interest. Such Individual Regional Interest Plans can be created at the behest of public or private developers and can be implemented on any type of land, regardless of its urban planning classification and designation. The initial approval of the PSIR results in the automatic suspension of any planning and urban management act. It may also determine, at the proposal of the developer, the suspension of the granting of new authorisations or licences in all or part of the area. By means of this mechanism, the Government of Cantabria has converted 200 hectares of specially protected agricultural land into industrial land in the municipality of Piélagos.

1. Does the Commission consider that – by allowing changes in the use of agricultural land regardless of its urban classification and designation, such as in the case of Piélagos – the concept of the PSIR runs counter to the best practice guidelines for limiting, mitigating or compensating soil sealing?
2. Does it consider that PSIRs help to achieve zero land take targets?
3. Does it consider that the PSIR infringes the autonomy of local authorities by changing the urban planning classification and designation approved by them?