

**Question for written answer E-004043/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Preservation of archaeological heritage in the Passos-Santa Comba mountain range

The Passos-Santa Comba mountain range, located in Mirandela (district of Bragança) and Valpaços (district of Vila Real), is one of the most important areas for archaeology in the Iberian Peninsula.

There is evidence of a long settlement in the mountain range in the prehistoric period, from the 5th to the 3rd millennium BC. The area is home to some of the oldest remnants of farming in the north-west Iberian Peninsula, the largest cluster of schematic rock art in Portugal and one of the two largest in the Iberian Peninsula. It also contains one of the largest and most varied clusters of painted motifs depicting eyes.

A procedure is currently under way to grant permission to build the Mirandela wind farm in the mountain range, which would involve installing eight 3.2-MW wind turbines.

The Left Bloc believes that the installation of a wind farm is not aligned with a land management model which respects natural and cultural heritage.

What measures will the Commission take to urge Portugal to protect the Passos-Santa Comba mountain range and its unique heritage from plans that could destroy that heritage and ruin its landscape?

Submitted: 12.12.2022