

**Question for written answer E-000618/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Possible misuse of NextGenerationEU funds

The Government of Aragon requested EUR 26.4 million from the NextGenerationEU budget to link up the ski resorts of Astún and Formigal via the Canal Roya natural area. The Spanish Government gave the green light to this sustainable tourism funding in a note dated 14 December 2022.

Canal Roya is located in the Aragonese Pyrenees. It is a high-mountain valley that is particularly vulnerable – and in the process of being declared a protected natural area – and it borders Ibones de Anayet, another protected area.

According to the EU's information, these funds are dedicated to 'environmentally friendly technologies' and the note from the Spanish Government states that they are a 'commitment to a new tourism model that responds to the sustainability challenges'.

Environmental groups in Aragon and studies on climate change and economic sustainability warn that this project – which will include a 4.4 km cable car – is not viable.

1. Is the Commission going to fund this destruction in a natural area?
2. What environmental criteria does the Commission use to allocate NextGenerationEU funding to works that are harmful to the natural heritage and its sustainability?
3. Does the Commission monitor projects like this that are approved by the Spanish Government?

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