

**Question for written answer E-001512/2023
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Nicolae Ștefănuță (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Bucharest is in danger of losing more urban green spaces

There are many privately owned plots of land containing forest vegetation in urban areas within the EU. More than 60 % of Europe's forest land is owned by private individuals. The EU's trees provide a public service: a breath of clean air, especially in overcrowded and polluted cities. However, they are under great threat.

For example, a 12-hectare area of IOR Park in Bucharest is in danger of disappearing. Romania has decriminalised the cutting of trees on private land in national legislation. In Bucharest, derisory fines have been imposed that have encouraged owners to deforest hectares of land and sell it to real estate investors. Under the Recovery and Resilience Facility national plan, EUR 30 million has been allocated to afforestation in urban areas, but this is a paltry sum given Romania's size.

1. Is the Commission considering proposing European legislation that would reconcile the right to property and the right to the environment in the case of private owners of land that is home to forest vegetation?
2. What kind of solutions does it envisage to address the disappearance of forest vegetation and parkland from urban areas?

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