

**Question for written answer E-000502/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Domènec Ruiz Devesa (S&D), Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D)**

**Subject:** The compatibility of removing cycle lanes in Elche with the aims of the European Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)

On 22 August 2023, Elche City Council – led by the parties PP and Vox – removed two cycle lanes. It plans to replace more with ‘cycling streets’, where they would share road space with motorists.

In its response of 13 December 2023 to a parliamentary question submitted on 5 October 2023, the Commission advocated cycling as ‘one of the most sustainable [...] forms of transport and recreation’ and called for ‘more and better cycling infrastructure’.

The removal of cycle lanes flies in the face of the European Declaration on Cycling of 4 October 2023, which highlights safety as a prerequisite to encourage people to cycle. The practice is also at odds with the provisions of Chapter V on the creation of more and better quality cycling infrastructure. This decision is detrimental to the Zero Pollution Action Plan, the European Green Deal, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and the new EU Urban Mobility Framework.

Does the Commission consider that removing these cycle lanes in Elche is appropriate in light of the European Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)?

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