

**Question for written answer E-000966/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ana Miranda (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Failure by the Xunta of Galicia to enlarge the Natura network along the boundaries of SAC ES11/0014 (Serra do Careón)

The autonomous government of Galicia (the Xunta) has breached the multiple EU warnings issued by the Commission since 2011 to enlarge the Natura Network protected area in Galicia, as well as an agreement of the Galician Parliament of June 2017 calling for this enlargement. In the context of the open infringement procedure, the fact that the enlargement has not taken place is all the more serious given that the Xunta is exploiting this lack of protection to support projects that harm the environment and fail to comply with EU legislation.

In its responses to several of my questions, the Commission explained that the Galician Government's contribution to the Natura Network was one of the lowest not only in Spain (27 %), but in the European Union as a whole, with 11.74 % of its surface area classed as protected.

I would like to raise concerns about the failure to enlarge the protected area in view of the threat posed by a cellulose plant project run by the company Greenfiber in an area bordering SAC ES11/0014 (Serra do Careón), which should have been enlarged several years ago.

1. Does the Commission have confirmation of the request from the State and the Xunta to enlarge this area?
2. Will it urge the Galician Government and the Spanish Government to comply with the legal obligation to enlarge the Natura Network in Galicia?

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