

**Question for written answer P-001290/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Sandrine Béliet (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Consent granted for the planned airport at Notre-Dame-des-Landes (France), currently the subject of an EU investigation

During the meeting of the Committee on Petitions on 17 September 2013, the Committee's Chair and the Commission's Directorate-General for the Environment confirmed they would follow closely the ongoing administrative procedures concerning environmental aspects, to ensure that the planned airport at Notre-Dame-des-Landes complies with EU law. The Commission Decision of 20 November 2013, on the compatibility of state aid for this airport plan with EU rules, reaffirmed this vigilant approach, stating that: 'The assessment of the measure in question in accordance with State aid legislation is without prejudice to the procedure currently under way to ensure that the project complies with European environmental law'.

On 20 December 2013, four administrative decisions in regard to water law and protected species were adopted by the Préfet of Loire-Atlantique. These allow the company Aéroports du Grand Ouest and DREAL (Pays de la Loire Regional Department of the Environment, Planning and Housing) to start work on building Notre-Dame-des-Landes Airport.

The shortcomings of the 'water law' and 'protected species' files serve to confirm the problems raised by members of the public who have lodged two petitions with Parliament on the failure to examine properly alternative options to this plan, a position backed up by the recent publication of a study by government services showing that redeveloping Nantes Atlantique Airport would be a feasible option. There are, furthermore, clear shortcomings with the offsetting measures and how they are to be implemented. In any case, the imminent and irreversible destruction of a strategically important wetland area rich in biodiversity now seems likely with the publication of these decisions.

1. Is the Commission aware that the aforementioned documents granting consent have been signed?
2. Is it continuing its investigations and is it keeping Parliament's Committee on Petitions informed?
3. How will the Commission ensure that this airport plan complies with EU legislation?