

**Priority question for written answer P-003675/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Alagoas Brancas – ecocide

A year ago we warned that Alagoas Brancas was under threat, that it should have the status of wetland of interest, instead of being caught up in vested real estate interests. As no action has been taken, the area is now being flattened to make space for a commercial venture, against scientific advice and the will of the local population and organisations involved. The Alagoas Brancas site is a cradle of biodiversity that contains more than 300 plant and animal species and hosts 143 bird species as they feed and rest when migrating. The scenes described are tragic: animals buried alive, wounded and sick birds, and a destroyed ecosystem. Wetlands are key to preserving biological diversity, regulating the climate and protecting the hydrological cycle. The biodiversity strategy for 2030 recognises the need to increase the coverage of protected areas in the EU to 30% of EU land and sea areas and to protect them properly.

In the light of the above and given that the Portuguese Government and municipal executives continue to ignore this state of affairs:

Is the Commission considering taking action this time to block the work carried out there and to classify the area before its destruction is irreversible?

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