

**Question for written answer E-001687/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Loucas Furlas (PPE)

Subject: Continuous unregulated and illegal quarrying in the Pentadaktylos mountains

In January 2019, the Commission acknowledged the unregulated and illegal quarrying being carried out in the occupied Pentadaktylos mountains, causing significant environmental damage and threatening local flora and fauna. Five years later, – despite the Commission’s technical assistance and capacity building for the Turkish Cypriot community – this illegal quarrying persists, with irreversible consequences for this environmentally sensitive area.

Considering Cyprus is still under occupation, and in the free part of Cyprus, quarrying is responsibly managed under the guidance of the Cyprus Aggregates Producers Association and Aggregates Europe – UEPG:

1. What concrete steps will the Commission take to halt the ongoing environmental degradation and illegal quarrying in the Pentadaktylos mountain range?
2. How can the Commission strengthen its cooperation with responsible entities in the occupied area to ensure sustainable environmental practices?
3. What further measures will be taken to protect businesses against unfair competition while operating under strict environmental regulations in the free areas of Cyprus?

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