

**Question for written answer E-001771/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Estrella Galán (The Left)

Subject: Los Carriles natural area in Alcobendas under threat

The Los Carriles natural area in Alcobendas contains exceptional biodiversity, is in a key location for conservation of neighbouring areas in the Natura 2000 network and helps dampen the impact of the city, for example by absorbing CO₂.

The ‘Let’s Save Los Carriles’ campaign has warned that the area is at risk of being wiped out by the Valgrande urban development project. The impact of the project would breach a number of directives, including Directive 92/43/EEC on Special Protection Areas and Directive 2008/50/EC.

In addition to a wealth of biodiversity in fauna and flora, including endangered birds of prey and various pollinators, the area under threat is also home to important seasonal aquatic ecosystems in need of protection.

The project clearly goes against the EU’s established principles and targets for addressing the ongoing biodiversity crisis. It may fall into the paradoxical situation of destroying a wild natural area containing five habitats of Community interest and priority conservation under the new Nature Restoration Law to then have to fund the restoration of another similar area.

1. Does the Commission believe projects such as this one are in line with the biodiversity strategy and the action needed to address the biodiversity crisis?
2. Does the Commission intend to investigate the Valgrande urban development project in light of the possible breaches of EU directives?

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