

**Question for written answer E-002587/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Extraction of rare earths on the island of Fuerteventura (Canary Islands)

In recent months, there has been increasing pressure from various business groups seeking to prospect for rare earths on the island of Fuerteventura (Canary Islands), using as a pretext the EU's objectives regarding critical raw materials for the Union. These activities are being carried out without any information being made accessible to the public and without any environmental assessments of the consequences of prospecting for such raw materials being undertaken.

1. Does the Commission consider that this project complies with all the environmental impact assessment requirements set out in Directives 2001/42/EC, 2011/92/EU and 2014/52/EU, as well as new Regulation 2024/1760 on corporate sustainability due diligence?
2. Does the Commission believe that a prior public consultation procedure should be carried out to ensure the involvement of the local people and environmental groups in any planned developments, pursuant to the Aarhus Convention, Directive 2003/4/EC and Council Decision 2005/370/EC?
3. Does the Commission take the view that this exploitation of natural resources without a detailed study of its environmental consequences being carried out is in line with the 'Putting people first' strategy for the outermost regions, one of which is the Canary Islands?

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