

**Question for written answer E-002864/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Irene Montero (The Left)

Subject: Loss of biodiversity in Doñana due to overexploitation of water

A scientific team from the Doñana Biological Station has analysed data from 38 years of bird censuses in Doñana and the Western Palearctic, along with satellite images and meteorological data from 432 wetlands of international importance. This study shows that 9 of the 15 species analysed have experienced a decline in the last 40 years due to the loss of flooded areas in the marshes of the Doñana National Park.

The effects of Doñana's deterioration extend beyond the boundaries of the protected area, meaning that wintering birds which spend periods nesting in the park are also affected. The Commission has been warning of the wetland's deterioration since at least 2014, and in 2021 the Court of Justice of the European Union found Spain guilty of ignoring illegal systematic extractions in the area. The serious deterioration of Doñana also jeopardises the achievement of the objectives set out in the Birds and Habitats Directives.

In light of the above:

1. What could the Commission do to ensure that water overexploitation in Doñana is stopped?
2. What steps could it take to ensure the recovery and restoration of Doñana's ecosystem and biodiversity?

Submitted: 11.12.2024