

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001687/24
to the Commission
Loucas Furlas (PPE)
(12 September 2024)**

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?

Submitted: 12.9.2024

**Answer given by Ms Ferreira on behalf of the European Commission
(24 October 2024)**

As pointed out in the reply to Question E-2244/2017, ⁽¹⁾ the Commission is aware of the quarrying activities in the Pentadaktylos mountains and continues to follow the issue given its impact on the environment.

The Commission regularly raises, with the Turkish Cypriot community, the need to apply appropriate conservation measures and protect this environmentally sensitive area.

In accordance with Protocol 10 of the 2003 Act of Accession, ⁽²⁾ the EU *acquis* is temporarily suspended in those areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control.

Accordingly, the Commission is not able to take the appropriate initiatives and ensure the application of the Treaties and EU legislation in those areas, including EU environmental legislation.

The Commission will continue to ask the relevant Turkish Cypriot local bodies and stakeholders to take measures to protect the Pentadaktylos mountains.

In addition, the Honourable Member may wish to refer this issue to the Bi-communal Technical Committee on Environment. This is one of the bicommunal technical committees established by the two Cypriot leaders in 2008 to tackle day-to-day issues affecting all Cypriots.

Finally, it should be noted that the trade of goods, including construction materials, from the areas of the Republic of Cyprus in which the Government of the Republic of Cyprus does not exercise effective control to the areas in which it exercises effective control takes place under the rules of Council Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 (Green Line Regulation). ⁽³⁾

⁽¹⁾ https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2017-002244-ASW_EN.html

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A12003T%2FPRO%2F10>

⁽³⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02004R0866-20150831>