

EN

E-001704/2024

Answer given by Executive Vice-President Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.11.2024)

The Commission has examined the available information on the project referred to by the Honourable Member, including the documents submitted by the groups concerned at the meeting in April 2024, as well as the information published by the competent authorities¹. The available information indicates that the project is currently subject to an ongoing assessment at national level pursuant to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive² and has not received the development consent yet (similarly for the permit under Industrial Emissions Directive³). At this stage, the Commission has not been provided with evidence pointing to a breach of EU legislation.

The Nature Restoration Regulation⁴ (NRR), which entered into force on 18 August 2024, sets binding nature restoration targets for Member States but does not impose direct obligations on individual companies. Member States must determine and lay down in their National Restoration Plan⁵ how to achieve these targets and where to put in place restoration measures, taking into account national, regional and local situations. Furthermore, the regulation requires Member States to ensure that the preparation of the restoration plan is open, transparent, inclusive and effective and that the public, including all relevant stakeholders, is given early and effective opportunities to participate in its preparation (Article 14(20)).

It is the primary responsibility of the competent authorities of the Member States to verify compliance with all relevant EU requirements.

¹ https://economia.xunta.gal/transparencia/informacion-publica/proxectos-industriais-estrategicos?content=expediente_0005.html ;
https://www.xunta.gal/dog/Publicados/2024/20240304/AnuncioG0692-200224-0017_g1.html;
https://www.xunta.gal/dog/Publicados/2023/20231226/AnuncioO143-011223-0002_es.html

² Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of 16 April 2014 - OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18.

³ Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 November 2010 on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control) (recast) (Text with EEA relevance). OJ L 334, 17.12.2010, p. 17–119.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2024/1991 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2024 on nature restoration and amending Regulation (EU) 2022/869, OJ L, 2024/1991, 29.7.2024.

⁵ To be submitted to the Commission by 1 September 2026.