

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000493/25
to the Commission
Isabel Serra Sánchez (The Left)
(4 February 2025)**

Subject: Construction of luxury villas and hotels in Tenerife

Cuna del Alma is a major tourism development project in Tenerife. It will see the construction of luxury villas and hotels that will bring an additional 200 000 tourists a year to add to the 4.87 million people already accommodated on this part of the coast. The area is classified as the 'Franja Marina Teno-Rasca' Special Area of Conservation (SAC ES7020017) and forms part of the European Union's Natura 2000 network. The area's inclusion in the Natura 2000 network means there is an ecological value that needs to be protected in line with Article 2 of the Habitats Directive. The authorities therefore need to put preservation and restoration measures in place in accordance with Chapter III of Spanish Law 42/2007, which classifies such sites as 'protected', and Article 46 lays down various protection measures.

1. Is the Commission aware of how the Cuna del Alma project affects this SAC?
2. What measures could it propose to curb the damage?
3. Does it consider the construction of these megaprojects to be compatible with the environmental and energy sustainability of Tenerife?

Submitted: 4.2.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(14 April 2025)**

The Commission does not possess detailed information about the project referred to by the Honourable Member, and whether it could have significant effects for the Natura 2000 site ⁽¹⁾ or the energy system of Tenerife.

Therefore, the Commission is not in a position to express its views on the compatibility of the project with the provisions under the Habitats Directive ⁽²⁾ or assess its potential impacts on the island's energy sustainability.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive determines that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site must be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site concerned. Such plan or project can only be approved if it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

Should a project have negative implications for the site, it can only be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest and in the absence of alternative solutions, and provided that the Member State takes all compensatory measures necessary to protect the overall coherence of the network, in accordance with Article 6(4) of the directive.

The responsibility for applying these provisions lies with the Spanish public authorities. In order to assist them in this task, the Commission has issued guidance documents supporting those involved in managing Natura 2000 sites ⁽³⁾ and has published studies on addressing conflicts and promoting benefits in the Natura 2000 network ⁽⁴⁾.

⁽¹⁾ ES7020017: https://www.idecanarias.es/resources/ZEC/AnexoI/ES7020017_I.pdf

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7-50.

⁽³⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/nature-and-biodiversity/natura-2000/managing-and-protecting-natura-2000-sites_en

⁽⁴⁾ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/3f466d71-92a7-49eb-9c63-6cb0fadf29dc/library/642f6372-437e-434f-b041-000f24e8d9e0/details?download=true>