

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000948/26
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(7 March 2026)**

Subject: Piñeiral da Madalena (in Cabanas, A Coruña)

The Piñeiral da Madalena pine wood is experiencing problems caused by marine erosion and pine trees growing in the sand. The conservation and regeneration project to tackle those issues is financed by EU funds earmarked for the just transition and has a budget of EUR 498 872.22. However, the local People's Party government is attacking the conservation of the ecosystem on several fronts, indiscriminately cutting down trees to build a car park and dumping waste excavated as part of works on the sewage system on the grass.

1. What is the Commission's opinion of EU funds being wasted in that way, considering that those funds are intended to protect and restore the land, not put it at risk?
2. What action does it intend to take to improve the audit of EU-funded projects?

Submitted: 7.3.2026

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(6 May 2026)**

According to the information available to the Commission, this project was part of the Recovery and Resilience Plan Facility (RRF).

The particular project referred to in the question falls under component 10 (Just Transition), investment 1 (Investment in Just Transition) of the Spanish Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP).

The relevant target (#140), which required the publication in the Official Journal of the award of at least 100 environmental, digital and social infrastructure projects in Just Transition Areas, was positively assessed under the fourth payment request ⁽¹⁾ in June 2024.

Compliance with the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle is a prerequisite for a measure to be included in a RRP (Article 5(2) of Regulation 2021/241) ⁽²⁾. Disbursements under the Facility are tied to the satisfactory fulfilment of these conditions.

Member States bear primary responsibility for the management and control of EU financing provided under the RRF funds. They are required to establish robust control systems to ensure that funds are utilised effectively and appropriately.

To this end, the Member States must provide details on the measures implemented, adhere to specific control requirements, and submit regular audit reports to the Commission, also for measures already assessed.

The Commission, in turn, carries out its own assessments and audits to confirm that Member States are fulfilling their obligations and that funds are being appropriately implemented. The Commission utilises various tools and procedures to review and validate the information provided by Member States.

⁽¹⁾ C(2024) 5186 finaldis.

⁽²⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32021R0241>.