

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002051/26
to the Commission
Ana Miranda Paz (Verts/ALE)
(19 May 2026)**

Subject: Concern about a new project threatening water, air, health and nature quality in A Laracha (A Coruña)

The planned large-scale biogas plant in A Laracha aims to produce organic fertiliser to generate biomethane by treating 63 500 tonnes of waste. The plant's location in an area of high environmental and heritage value close to several population centres has led to widespread public opposition to the project, due to potential risks to health and the natural environment, including the Río Anllóns SCI and SAC. The Stop Biogás A Laracha platform called for a mass demonstration and the BNG submitted a complaint before the Galician Parliament.

Galicia does not have any legislation on such large-scale plants and, in addition, trails in the number of protected Natura 2000 network areas in both Spain and the EU. This project again shows how protecting the environment is secondary for the Galician and Spanish governments, even in view of the Commission's infringement procedure for the breach of Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) and the mismanagement of the Natura 2000 network in Galicia.

In light of the above,

1. Is the Commission aware of this project and the possible effects on protected natural areas?
2. Does it have information on what specific measures have been taken by the Galician and Spanish governments to comply with the conservation requirements for these unique areas under threat?

Submitted: 19.5.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(16 July 2026)**

At this stage, the information available to the Commission regarding the project to build a biogas plant in A Laracha is limited to what has been transmitted by the Honourable Member and is publicly available.

While the Commission does not have specific information on the measures that have been taken by the Galician and Spanish governments to comply with the conservation requirements for SAC Río Anllóns ⁽¹⁾ regarding the project at stake, the Commission recalls that under Articles 6(2) and 6(3) of the Habitats Directive ⁽²⁾, 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, and may be authorised only if it is ascertained that it will not adversely affect the site's integrity, subject to the derogation regime in Article 6(4).

These requirements apply to the competent Spanish authorities, which remain responsible for the correct implementation of these provisions.

As guardian of the Treaties, the Commission monitors the implementation of EU nature legislation in Spain, including through the ongoing infringement procedure ⁽³⁾ regarding the management of the Natura 2000 network.

As a complement to its strategic enforcement policy, focused on systemic and structural issues ⁽⁴⁾, the Commission considers that national means of redress are the most effective means to address individual alleged cases of non-compliance, such as the situation described by the Honourable Member.

⁽¹⁾ ES1110015.

⁽²⁾ Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, pp. 7-50.

⁽³⁾ [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?lang_code=fr&langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2015\)2003&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?lang_code=fr&langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR(2015)2003&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate).

⁽⁴⁾ As set out in the communication of 19 January 2017 (EU law: Better results through better application — C/2016/8600, OJ C 18, 19.1.2017, p. 10-20) and in the communication of 13 October 2022 COM(2022) 518 final — Enforcing EU law for a Europe that delivers.