

**Question for written answer E-015306/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: The Akamas peninsula in Cyprus - a Natura 2000 protected area

The management plan for the Akamas peninsula in Cyprus, a Natura 2000 protected area, is currently undergoing ratification. However, a new round of consultations began recently and strong reservations have been expressed about measures being taken to amend the provisions of the management plan so as to allow development and construction within the protected area. On 19.11.2015 the Inter-ministerial Committee recommended the reduction of the protected Natura 2000 area to be included in the 'National Forest Park' currently under construction by 25% (thereby restricting it to State-owned land) and the promotion of the new urban development zones within the Akamas protected area left outside the Park.

Such a development would promote the interests of a few large landowners at the expense of the interests and needs of society. It would be disastrous for the protected area of the Akamas peninsula, which is of paramount environmental importance for Cyprus, but also for the rest of the EU.

Does the Commission have any information on efforts to reduce the size of the Natura 2000 area and promote development and construction within this area, despite the fact that the Management Plan does not allow it?

What steps will the Commission take to prevent such a development which would have adverse effects on human health and environmental protection?