

**Question for written answer E-002896/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Irene Montero (The Left)

Subject: Impact of the Guggenheim Urdaibai project on the Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve and use of EU funds

The Urdaibai Biosphere Reserve (UNESCO, 1984), while robustly protected (Natura 2000 network, Ramsar Convention, Law No 5/1989)¹, is under threat from Basque Government plans for two Guggenheim museum sites to be built in the protected area. Consequences will include a new path to link the two sites, a wooden pile structure that would affect the marsh and 140 000 more tourists a year, which would harm a delicate ecosystem².

The project is funded by NextGenerationEU and could pose problems regarding access to information and participation³. In view of the above:

1. What does the Commission make of the project's potential impact on the Urdaibai ecosystem and marsh, which are protected under the Natura 2000 network?
2. Is the Commission monitoring this project's compliance with Directives 92/43/EEC (on habitats) and 2009/147/EC (on birds)?
3. What measures will the Commission take to ensure the rights of participation and access to justice on environmental matters, as required by the Aarhus Convention, are upheld with regard to this project?

Submitted: 12.12.2024

¹ Página web de la plataforma Guggenheim Urdaibai Stop. <https://guggenheimurdaibaistop.info/es/>.

² https://www.eldiario.es/euskadi/puntos-negros-segundo-guggenheim-zona-inundable-acuifero-contaminado-problemas-abastecimiento-urdaibai_1_10647731.html.

³ <https://cadenaser.com/euskadi/2024/12/04/los-ayuntamientos-de-urdaibai-guardan-silencio-ante-el-dialogo-impulsado-por-la-diputacion-sobre-el-futuro-de-la-comarca-radio-bilbao/>.