

Motions

Motion number	14
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Modesto González Márquez
Member party	Andalucía Por Sí
Title [of the Motion]	Defence of the Doñana National Park Biosphere Reserve

REASONING:

The Doñana National Park in Andalucía is one of Europe's most stunning natural areas of Europe with more than 350 km². A UNESCO World Heritage site, it boasts a unique level of biodiversity, especially concentrated around its marches and wetlands with more than 300 species of European and African birds.

However, these wetlands have long been under threat by illegal wells tapping their water for agricultural purposes, especially strawberry farms. These wells not only drain the water supply, but also introduce contaminants including heavy metals, fertilisers and pesticides. An investigation by the World Wildlife Fund estimates that the land area being used for irregular farms has increased by 25% in recent years, and that there are more than 2000 structures capturing water from aquifers, streams, ponds or wells in the park.

The Government of Andalucía is now proposing a law that will regularise and legalise the water extraction infrastructure in the park. The so-called "Strawberry Plan" would represent an acceptance that the illegal activities that have already caused so much damage can continue, virtually guaranteeing that the situation will decline further. While the central Spanish Government has raised concerns about the plan, it is ultimately a regional decision. Besides, a Court of Justice ruling (C-599/19) last year found that the Spanish state has repeatedly failed in its duty to protect the natural heritage of the park.

Under EU Directive 2001/42, all projects likely to have an environmental impact must be preceded by an evaluation prior to their construction. This has clearly not been the case for the illegal wells, and the proposed law seeks to legitimise them without any evaluation having taken place.

THE EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE CALLS FOR:

1. The EU to intervene to stop this law from entering into force
2. To condemn the Spanish and the Andalusian Government in the face of this new breach of European directives.

3. To carry out an independent investigation on the real situation of the park to evaluate the real threat against the Park's ecosystems and establish a plan against desertification and the defense of another model of agricultural management.

LEGISLATION THAT IS VIOLATED

a) Considering Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora and Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds] that establish priority on the conservation of biodiversity.

b) Considering Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment Directive 2001/42 / EC, by which the preparation and approval of certain plans and programs may have a prior verification and evaluation of their effects on the environment

c) The EU Water Framework Directive. The WFD is complemented by other, more specific, EU laws: The Environmental Quality Standards Directive [2008] and the Groundwater Directive [2006]