



Monday, 13 of April 2023

Dear Executive Vice-President Timmermans,
Dear Commissioner Sinkevičius,

I am writing you with great urgency regarding the information that is being addressed to the European institutions on the bill proposal presented in the Andalusian Parliament for the improvement of the management of the agricultural area located in the Doñana Forest Northern Crown, a National Park in Southwest Spain, one of the most important wetlands in Europe.

This draft law does not affect compliance with the ruling on the Kingdom of Spain in case C-559/19, but rather ensures compliance because groundwater extraction from the aquifer is not allowed.

In recent years, Doñana has suffered a number of problems related to water availability and quality, due to climate change, agricultural intensification and water extractions.

The proposed bill protects Doñana, since it does not allow the exploitation of the aquifer that feeds the park and does not automatically grant the right to irrigation of lands classified as agricultural land irrigable with surface water. Instead, these rights will be granted in accordance with the regulations in force and the procedures established by the Guadalquivir Hydrographic Confederation, the competent body in this field, as well as other administrations and bodies of the basin.

It is important to note that the bill does not affect the National Park or the Natural Park, not even the pre-park. It only refers to the Northern Crown, which is 30 or 40 kilometers away.

I wish to be able to explain the current situation of the park and the proposal that is intended to be implemented to solve the existing problem, neglected by previous governments. Considering that the damage is already significant and the urgency is undeniable, I kindly request your attention in this matter.

Attentively,

Manfred Weber, MEP EPP President
Dolors Montserrat, MEP Spokeperson of the EPP Spanish Delegation
Juan Ignacio Zoido Álvarez, MEP EPP Spanish Delegation