

**Question for written answer
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The Valmuel-Tarragona-Begues EHV transmission line

The 400 kV Valmuel-Begues extra high voltage (EHV) line is a privately owned project, with exclusive use of its promoter. It would be 180 kilometres long, with 500 towers of 50m and 70m height.

It would cross through lagoons of special biological interest and areas of high natural value, embedded in the Natura 2000 network. Negative effects on protected habitats will be unavoidable. It will also affect croplands of high agro-ecological value and farm infrastructures.

On the other hand, new renewable energy production facilities much closer to Tarragona and Barcelona are about to receive authorization.

Does the Commission find appropriate the transmission of electricity at such long distance, by a private company, when currently new energy parks much closer to mass consumption centres are pending approval?

How will the Commission respond to the negative impacts on those areas included in Natura 2000 and on species of vegetation and fauna classified as vulnerable?

Does the Commission consider coherent that while many municipalities design and implement development strategies -frequently funded by the EU- based on enhancing and promoting the territory and the landscape, they, in turn, must face infrastructures such as this EHV line, which directly undermine the development of such strategies?