Question for written answer P-003555/2018 to the Commission
Rule 130
Carlos Iturgaiz (PPE)

Subject: Horizon 2020 - Sabana project

The Commission is providing EUR 1 499 500 in funding under the Horizon 2020 programme for the Sabana project in Almería (Spain). The project has been delayed by local opposition to the locating of an industrial plant (a microalgae bio-refinery) just a few metres from houses. According to the project's website, it is to be located on plot 115, zone 59, La Cañada.

The company has requested planning permission from Almería municipality solely as an agricultural installation, omitting to mention that in fact the project involves an industrial bio-refinery, with polluting emissions, including use of nutrients (pig slurry), as detailed in the funded project. Some local people are concerned about the unsanitary conditions which may be created in a residential area and the lack of public consultation. According to the municipal planning department, the plot where the bio-refinery is intended to be located is non-development land under agricultural protection on which the installation of industry of any type is prohibited. The project was therefore misrepresented as involving an agricultural crop.

Has the project developer sent the Commission information on the exact location of each phase of the Sabana project?

Can the Commission confirm the exact location where the microalgae bio-refinery will be set up?

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