

Motions

Motion number	3
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Christopher Rivas
Member party	Andalucía Por Sí – Andalucistas and Chunta Aragonesista
Title (of the Motion)	<i>AGAINST THE EXPANSION OF THE EL CABRIL NUCLEAR WASTE SITE AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE ANDALUSIAN NATION</i>

MOTION AGAINST THE EXPANSION OF THE EL CABRIL NUCLEAR WASTE SITE AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ON THE ANDALUSIAN NATION

REASONING:

The recent decision by the The Government of the Spanish State to expand the **El Cabril nuclear waste site**, located in the municipality of **Hornachuelos (Córdoba)**, has raised serious concerns among **the Andalusian Nation, the scientific community, environmentalists, and citizens**. This project, promoted by **Spanish National Radioactive Waste Management Company (Enresa)**, aims to **double the current storage capacity for low- and intermediate-level radioactive waste**, directly affecting the **Sierra de Hornachuelos Natural Park** and the **Guadiato-Bembézar Community Importance Zone**, both part of the **Natura 2000 Network**.

A recent report by the **European Commission** has warned about the **negative impacts** that this expansion could have on these protected areas. **European regulations require that any project potentially affecting biodiversity must undergo rigorous evaluation**; however, the **strategic environmental assessment of the Seventh General Plan for Radioactive Waste** has failed to confirm the absence of negative effects on local biodiversity.

Andalucía Por Sí strongly **opposes the expansion of El Cabril** and denounces the fact that the **Spanish State continues to turn Andalusia into a nuclear dumping ground**, without guaranteeing **an independent and transparent assessment** of its effects on **public health and Andalusian ecosystems**. This decision violates the **principle of "no net loss of biodiversity"** and contradicts **European environmental protection commitments**.

Furthermore, the expansion of El Cabril is taking place in a **context of uncertainty regarding nuclear waste management in the Spanish State**. An **international review conducted in 2018 within the framework of the ARTEMIS mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** identified **deficiencies in funding for deep geological storage** and issued **recommendations that have yet to be addressed**.

THE EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE CALLS FOR:

1. **Demand the immediate suspension of the expansion of El Cabril by the Government of the Spanish State, until an independent environmental impact assessment is conducted, ensuring that the project will not harm biodiversity or public health.**
2. **Request the European Commission to investigate the feasibility of the expansion of El Cabril and evaluate its impact on the Natura 2000 Network, in compliance with Directive 92/43/EEC on Habitats and Directive 2009/147/EC on Birds.**
3. **Develop a progressive nuclear waste decommissioning plan in Andalusia, ensuring that this transition follows criteria of safety, sustainability, and territorial justice, preventing Andalusia from being the only territory bearing this burden. This process must include the gradual reduction of storage activity at El Cabril and the implementation of technological alternatives that minimize environmental impact.**
4. **Urge the Spanish State to adopt a fairer model for nuclear waste management, preventing Andalusia from continuing to serve as a nuclear dumping site while other regions benefit from nuclear energy production without taking responsibility for waste management. Additionally, the European Free Alliance demands proportional compensation for the accumulated environmental damage and the establishment of a fair distribution mechanism for radioactive waste at the state level.**
5. **Promote a comprehensive environmental recovery program for areas affected by El Cabril, including the restoration of degraded ecosystems, monitoring of radiological impacts, and financing of sustainable development projects in impacted communities. This plan must ensure the regeneration of the natural environment and the creation of alternative economic opportunities for local populations.**
6. **Ensure compliance with the European Water Framework Directive, demanding an assessment of the impact of nuclear waste storage at El Cabril on local aquifers and water quality.**
7. **Review nuclear safety standards in the Spanish State, ensuring that future nuclear waste storage strategies comply with the strictest environmental and public health protection criteria.**
8. **Require the Spanish State to provide periodic reporting on compliance with the recommendations issued under the IAEA ARTEMIS peer review mission, ensuring compliance with international standards on nuclear waste management.**

LEGISLATION THAT IS VIOLATED

- a) **Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive)**, which requires that any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site undergo an appropriate environmental

assessment. The expansion of El Cabril directly affects protected areas within the Natura 2000 network without guaranteeing the absence of negative impacts on biodiversity.

b) **Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive)**, which obliges Member States to protect bird species and their habitats, especially within designated Special Protection Areas. The expansion poses a threat to birdlife in areas adjacent to El Cabril.

c) **Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive)**, which requires that environmental impacts of plans such as national radioactive waste strategies be assessed in a transparent and participatory way. The Seventh General Plan for Radioactive Waste fails to ensure a proper assessment of biodiversity and health risks.

d) **Directive 2000/60/EC – Water Framework Directive (WFD)**, which requires the protection and improvement of the quality of groundwater and surface water. The potential contamination of aquifers by radioactive waste compromises water safety in the surrounding area.

e) **Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy**, which aims to reduce pollution in surface waters. The risks of leaks or runoff from nuclear waste storage into rivers or streams would violate the pollutant thresholds set by this directive.

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