



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Natural Capital
Nature Protection
The Head of Unit

Brussels
ENV/NN/JCA/pp

Mr Mike Smart
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Dear Mr Smart,

Thank you for your mail of 19 August 2020, concerning the planned conversion of the existing military airport in Montijo, Portugal into an international airport serving the city of Lisbon, and for the enclosed article published in *Wader Study*. Commissioner Sinkevičius asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Commission is fully aware of the issues currently raised at national, European and international level, concerning the impact that such a development could have on the Special Protection Area “Estuário do Tejo” and on the birds that use that area, one of the main resting areas along the East Atlantic Flyway.

My services have therefore launched an investigation into this matter. Following the analysis of the Environmental Impact and Study, which was also mentioned in the Commission’s letter to the Curlew Forum of 18 March 2020, the European Commission asked the Portuguese authorities a set of questions on this matter. My services are currently assessing the replies submitted by the Portuguese authorities and on this basis the Commission will decide on the appropriate course of action.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Notaro