

STATEMENT

Thank you, Mrs Chair, Dear Colleagues,

We proudly announce that the Kingdom of Spain has recently passed, on 30th September, the Law number 19/2022, that recognises legal personhood to the Mar Menor Sea (a coastal lagoon located in Murcia Region) and to its basin.

This Law is a milestone in Spain and in Europe, as the first legal text that grants rights to an ecosystem. It has been the result of a People's Legislative Initiative which began in 2020 and involved the collection of six hundred seventy thousand signatures. The Law allows the public to defend the rights of nature through citizen committees. We believe that this is an important step forward regarding public participation in environmental matters. We want to ensure the connection of this Law with the Aarhus Convention, and to enforce its articles 7, 8 and 9.

Thank you for your attention.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/sep/21/endangered-mar-menor-lagoon-in-spain-granted-legal-status-as-a-person>

<https://www.science.org/content/article/lagoon-effectively-person-says-spanish-law-s-attempting-save-it>