

**Question for written answer E-005072/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: POLIS programme - Ria Formosa lagoon (Portugal)

Under the POLIS programme, financed by NSRF funding, four priority areas of intervention were identified, including 308 km of coastal waterfront and 220 km of lagoon and estuary waterfront, with a total investment of EUR 300 million.

In one of these four priority areas, in the Algarve, the project involves demolishing several hamlets on various small islands in the Ria Formosa lagoon. The first phase includes 150 homes on the islands of Ratas, Coco and Altura, while the second phase includes homes on the islands of Faro, Hangares and Farol.

These established hamlets are the result of a process of settlement by fishing communities over several centuries. Their renovation and enhancement should be a social and cultural imperative because they are an integral part of the region's identity.

When applications for funding for projects under the Integrated Strategic Plan for the Restoration and Enhancement of the Ria Formosa were assessed, was account taken of the interests of the people who are about to be displaced? Also, was due consideration given to the historical and cultural aspects of these hamlets, which are linked to fishing and solidly rooted in the natural environment?