

**Question for written answer E-000111/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

José Inácio Faria (ALDE)

Subject: Irregular construction of a dam on the river Tagus

The Tagus is the longest river in the Iberian Peninsula and its course passes through protected natural areas and ecosystems specific to the Mediterranean region. It supplies drinking water to urban areas and supports economic activities such as agriculture, fisheries, tourism and hydroelectric power. It also provides cooling water for two nuclear power stations in Spain and two thermoelectric power plants, one of them in Pego, Abrantes, Portugal.

The Tagus is coming under growing environmental and hydrological pressure as a result of radioactive contamination, the discharge of urban and industrial wastewater and the transfer of water to a different river basin.

The situation is being further exacerbated by the irregular construction of a dam at Abrantes, crossing the whole river and preventing fish and small boats from passing through. The dam is to be used to provide water for the cooling system at the power plant in Pego.

Can the Commission guarantee that the construction of this dam was duly licensed by the competent national authority in compliance with national and European environmental legislation?

Were environmental impact studies carried out in keeping with the Tagus hydrological system?

Can the Commission guarantee that the Portuguese Environment Agency will pay the necessary attention to monitoring this situation in the future?