

**Question for written answer E-004787/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Acuamed plan to pollute the river Ebro

It was reported in *El Mundo* on 10 June 2016 that last year Acuamed was engaged in a criminal plot to surreptitiously dump hydrochloric acid into the Ebro in order to save the cost of purifying water from the Flix dam, in Tarragona, for the benefit of its contractor, FCC.

OLAF is already assisting the Spanish High Court with investigations in the Acuamed case concerning possible fraud in the construction of water management works. The events in question occurred when Miguel Arias Cañete, now a Commissioner, was Agriculture Minister, the Agriculture Ministry being the authority which oversees Acuamed, a state-owned company.

- Given that Acuamed has received European funding, is the Commission intending to investigate whether any of that funding could have been earmarked for the abovementioned plan?
- Given that Commissioner Arias Cañete was responsible for appointing the former director of Acuamed, Arcadio Mateo, and may have approved the financial compensation for FCC, does the Commission intend to shed light on his role in what may be a further offence?
- In the light of the information brought to light by the press, what steps is the Commission considering taking with regard to Commissioner Arias Cañete?