

**Question for written answer E-005798/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Breach of the Water Framework Directive

The Mar Menor is considered to be the most important coastal saltwater lagoon in the western Mediterranean, and the most significant wetland in south-east Spain. Over the past few decades, the Mar Menor has deteriorated owing to a lack of coordination and action on the part of the authorities in the face of increasing use of the lagoon without prior planning. Furthermore, no legislation has been introduced to regulate that use. All this has led to extremely serious deterioration as a result of pollution, unbridled property development and a failure to apply state- and regional-level environmental regulations that would prevent the destruction of one of Europe's richest ecosystems.

At European level, the Mar Menor has been classed as an area at risk of nitrate pollution since 2001 (Directive 91/676/EC) and as a sensitive area (Directive 91/271/EC). Furthermore, in order to ensure sufficient water quality, compliance with the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) is required.

In the light of the alarming level of environmental damage that is being caused to the Mar Menor lagoon, which is considered to be a stretch of coastal water under the Water Framework Directive, does the Commission take the view that there may also be a breach of that directive in this case?