

**Question for written answer E-008864/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Situation of the Albufera natural park in Valencia

The Albufera natural park in Valencia is currently below the minimum ecological flow rate required to ensure the survival of the wetland. Despite having sufficient resources, the Júcar Hydrographic Confederation (which answers to the Spanish Ministry of the Environment), is refusing to provide the water necessary to reach the minimum flow, claiming that other uses, such as irrigation, would be compromised.

Given that it is the largest freshwater lake in Spain, in addition to being an area that has been declared a natural park by the Spanish Government, a site of Community interest (SCI) under the Habitats Directive and a Special Protection Area for birds (SPA) under the Birds Directive, and is included on the Ramsar List and in the Natura 2000 network:

Is the Commission aware of the situation in the Albufera natural park, Valencia?

Does it not agree that to give priority to other uses rather than to the maintenance of the ecological flow is in breach of the Water Framework Directive?

What measures does it intend to take to remedy this disastrous situation as soon as possible?