

**Question for written answer E-000310/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**José Inácio Faria (PPE)**

Subject: Request for information on the situation regarding the uranium mines located a few kilometres from the Portuguese border

1. The Commission is aware of the open-cast uranium mining project under way in Spain, in the Salamanca region (Alameda de Gardón), a few kilometres from Portugal. In the absence of any environmental impact study analysing transboundary impacts, has the Commission taken any steps vis-à-vis Spain with regard to non-compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the Espoo Convention?
2. The Commission is very familiar with the 'Retortillo-Santidad' (Salamanca) project, which consists of a uranium reprocessing plant and a radioactive waste disposal site located in a Natura 2000 network area a few kilometres from Portugal. In the absence of any environmental impact study analysing transboundary impacts, has the Commission taken any steps vis-à-vis Spain with regard to non-compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive and the Espoo Convention?
3. On 22 February 2016, the Commission answered Written Question E-015514/2015, stating that it was not aware whether the Portuguese authorities were involved and that it was currently investigating whether EU law – in particular the Environmental Impact Assessment and the Habitats Directives – were being properly applied and emphasising that, in its role as Guardian of the Treaties, it might initiate infringement proceedings. What is the state of play of this investigation which the Commission has stated it is undertaking?