

**Question for written answer E-002034/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Estefanía Torres Martínez (GUE/NGL), Tania González Peñas (GUE/NGL) and Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Treatment of municipal sewage

The Commission has asked the Court of Justice to fine Spain more than EUR 46 million for inadequate collection and treatment of sewage in 17 towns and cities.

The authorities have been negligent in their duties concerning the maintenance of offshore sewage outfalls, which has caused huge sewage slicks to appear off the Asturian coast.

The Court of Justice had ruled that the Spanish authorities were in breach of EU legislation on the treatment of municipal sewage. Directive 91/271/EEC has set minimum standards and timetables for sewage collection and treatment, introduced controls on the disposal of sewage sludge and ordered that the dumping at sea of sewage sludge be phased out.

Five years later, Spain has still not remedied this problem in 17 towns and cities that are home to 1.4 million people.

1. When does the Commission plan to impose these penalties?
2. In view of Spain's repeated failure to fulfil its obligations with reference to sewage treatment, will the Commission assess the risks and damage caused to public health and the environment by this waste matter?