

**Question for written answer E-003526/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Paloma López Bermejo (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Ecological flow rate of the Cega River

Numerous Valladolid-based nature conservation organisations have reported that in summers of 2015 and 2016 the Cega River fell below its minimum flowrate (even drying up totally at times) at several points near the Cardiel hydroelectric power plant. This was also the case, as publicly verified by SAIH, the automatic Duero River information system, in climate conditions that would normally be conducive to maintaining the ecological flow rate.

The state of affairs is particularly serious since the area in question is part of the Natura 2000 network (LIC-ES4180070 Banks of the Cega River).

In view of the EU's competence in regulating environmental matters, particularly the Water Framework Directive:

Is the Commission aware of the state of groundwater reserves and rivers in the Duero River basin in the province of Valladolid and, particularly, fluctuations in the flow rate of the Cega River near the Cardiel hydroelectric plant?

What representations will it make to the relevant authorities, particularly the River Duero basin authority and the Ministry of Environment of the Junta de Castilla- León, to ensure the proper implementation of EU water legislation in this river basin?

What action will it demand to repair environmental damage in LIC-ES4180070?