

**Question for written answer E-004330/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE) and Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Compliance with Parliament mandate for the Castor project

In April 2015 Parliament adopted the Report on the European Investment Bank - Annual Report 2013<sup>1</sup>, in which it regretted 'the role played by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Commission in the Castor project'. The report also urged the Commission and the EIB to 'take action in order to avoid Spanish citizens having to pay, through a higher public deficit or by raising energy costs, EUR 1 300 million in compensation over a disastrously assessed project'. Parliament finally asked the Commission to investigate 'whether the Spanish Government decisions on Castor could be considered prohibited state aid'.

1. Has the Commission complied with the Parliament mandate? If so, how?
2. Has the Commission held the Spanish authorities responsible or will the Commission hold them responsible for what has happened? What measures will the Commission take to avoid citizens having to pay off what is a private debt?
3. What internal verification procedures did the EIB develop to support this project, despite warnings from various studies<sup>2</sup> and large sections of Spanish society?

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+REPORT+A8-2015-0057+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN> (Paragraph 33).

<sup>2</sup> See: Observatori de l'Ebre (CSIC, URLL): Evaluación de Impacto Ambiental (SGEA/SHG; Ref.: GAD/13/05) – 'Almacenamiento subterráneo de gas natural Amposta' (Permiso Castor) (Tarragona); IAM 2109-07 - Estudio elaborado por la Dirección General de Política Ambiental y Sostenibilidad del Departamento de Medio Ambiente y Vivienda de la Generalitat de Catalunya sobre el estudio de impacto ambiental del Proyecto de almacén subterráneo de gas natural Castor'; and Simone Cesca, Francesco Grigoli, Sebastian Heimann, Álvaro González, Elisa Bufo, Samira Maghsoudi, Estefania Blanch and Torsten Dahm (2014): 'The 2013 September–October seismic sequence offshore Spain: a case of seismicity triggered by gas injection?', *Geophysical Journal International*, 198, 941–953.