

**Question for written answer E-007224/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Xabier Benito Ziluaga (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Retortillo uranium mine - environmental impact assessments and economic viability

At the start of 2017, Berkeley Minera España S.L. began building a uranium mine in the municipal districts of Retortillo and Villavieja de Yeltes (province of Salamanca). The works have been at a standstill since then.

1. Does the Commission believe that the environmental impact assessment provided for in Directive 2011/92/EU ensures that companies properly evaluate the impact of radioactive material on the environment?
2. Given that the project is about 30 km from the border with Portugal and the Portuguese Environment Agency published a report on 30 May 2016 in which it concluded that 'the Retortillo-Santidad uranium-mining project (Salamanca, Spain), could have significant environmental effects on Portugal', has an environmental impact assessment been carried out within the framework of the Espoo Convention?
3. Taking into account that some mining projects have been pursued for speculative purposes and the Spanish state-owned company Empresa Nacional del Uranio S.A. has questioned the profitability of the site, will the Commission ask Berkeley Minera España S.L. to provide it with a study on the economic viability of the project?