

**Question for written answer E-002198/2018/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Diverting the flow of River Mijares, Teruel (Spain)

In May 2018, the electric company Iberdrola will divert 80-90% of the river flow from River Mijares into a canal running from Olba (Teruel) to Los Cantos (Castellón). The resulting ecological flow rate will be of just 0.4 m³ (approximately 10% of the natural flow), which will cause eutrophication, a loss of oxygen and serious damage to the aquatic biodiversity and riverbank vegetation.

The stretch of River Mijares that is level with Olba is under special protection as it is part of the Natura 2000 network ('Los Estrechos del Río Mijares' ES2420128) and is protected by the non-deterioration principle referred to in the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

The project breaches Directive 2011/92/EU, as the diversion constitutes a change in the circumstances determining the strategic environmental assessment.

Furthermore, the Annex to Directive 2001/42/EC has been breached in regard to the abundance, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources in the area, and the load capacity of the surrounding area.

What steps will the Commission take to ensure that the above EU legislation is complied with?