

**Question for written answer E-002368/2018**

**to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Toxic spillage in Huelva (Spain)

The phosphogypsum ponds in Huelva (Spain) contain 120 million tonnes of toxic and radioactive industrial waste that affect the Rio Tinto protected area (Marismas y Riberas del Tinto ES6150014), part of the Natura 2000 network. Recent heavy rain has revealed the extent to which substantial amounts of toxic waste are spilling into the Huelva estuary, highlighting serious failings in the security and monitoring of the ponds.

The accompanying documentation describes the spillages in the Huelva estuary<sup>1</sup>. This situation casts doubt on the phosphogypsum pond restoration project submitted by the company responsible, which proposes covering the toxic waste with a layer of earth. This would not prevent future spills in the estuary as it would not ensure the stability or the containment of these large amounts of waste in the event of severe weather conditions, rising sea levels or changes in wave direction.

1. What measures will the Commission take to prevent toxic spillages and ensure compliance with environmental law (2000/60/EC, 92/43/EEC, 2008/98/EC and 2010/75/EU)?
2. What measures will the Commission take to ensure proper environmental restoration of Huelva's phosphogypsum ponds?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://greenpeace.smugmug.com/Otros/Huelva-fosfoyesos/i-N843DfZ>

[https://www.eldiario.es/andalucia/enclave\\_rural/medio\\_ambiente/Greenpeace-Mesa-Ria-Huelva-fosfoyesos\\_0\\_749275366.html](https://www.eldiario.es/andalucia/enclave_rural/medio_ambiente/Greenpeace-Mesa-Ria-Huelva-fosfoyesos_0_749275366.html)

<http://www.efeverde.com/noticias/temporal-constatan-vertidos-ria-huelva-balsas-fosfoyesos-enma>

<http://www.europapress.es/sociedad/medio-ambiente-00647/noticia-greenpeace-mesa-ria-denuncian-vertido-ria-huelva-balsas-fosfoyesos-fertiberia-20180312165638.html>

<http://www.lavanguardia.com/local/sevilla/20180312/441477224157/constatan-vertidos-a-ria-de-huelva-desde-balsas-de-fosfoyesos-tras-temporal.html>

<http://www.lavanguardia.com/vida/20180312/441481901849/greenpeace-y-la-mesa-de-la-ria-denuncian-el-vertido-a-la-ria-de-huelva-desde-las-balsas-de-fosfoyesos-de-fertiberia.html>

<http://andaluciainformacion.es/andalucia/741709/constatan-vertidos-a-la-ria-de-huelva-desde-los-fosfoyesos>

<http://www.ecoticias.com/residuos-reciclaje/181764/Vertidos-ria-Huelva-desde-balsas-fosfoyesos-tras-temporal-Enma>

<https://www.larazon.es/local/andalucia/el-temporal-provoca-vertidos-toxicos-de-las-balsas-de-fosfoyesos-BH17893013>

<http://www.diariodehuelva.es/2018/03/12/greenpeace-mesa-la-ria-denuncian-vertido-la-ria-desde-las-balsas-fosfoyesos>

<https://youtu.be/jsnkfXD7Nr4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R6fcK7F6uB&feature=youtu.be>