

**Question for written answer E-003410/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Florent Marcellesi (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Special drought plans for the Segura river basin

The Spanish Government is outlining 'water scarcity indices' (a measure for analysing hydrological change), with unusually high percentages for 'alert' and 'emergency' situations (9.9% and 22.55%, respectively, in the Segura area, with the Special Drought Plan (PES) being in force for a total of 32.6% of the time). These two situations enable the government to publish drought decrees, meaning that construction work is automatically declared to be 'for public use' (enabling the *express* expropriation of land under Article 58 of the consolidated text of the Water Law) and 'emergencies'.

The conditions for work would make sense in genuine emergency situations. However, the design of the 'water scarcity indices' turn these exceptions into regular practice for the Ministry and hydrographic confederations. In the Segura area, various drought wells have been dug.

- 1) Is the Commission aware that this is in breach of the Community law on public procurement and environmental impact assessments, as well as the Water Framework Directive?
- 2) What measures will the Commission take to ensure that there is compliance with European legislation on the three aforementioned issues?