

**Question for written answer E-005589/2018
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Miguel Viegas (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Lithium mining in Covas de Barroso

In 2017, Braga-based Slipstream Resources Portugal Unipessoal, Lda, a subsidiary of the Australian company Savannah Resources, bought a feldspar and quartz mining licence which the company Imerys Ceramics Portugal had held since 2005. The licence covers an area in Covas de Barroso, a district in the Boticas municipality, Portugal. Savannah Resources turned the prospecting and mining licence into one for lithium – allegedly without carrying out an environmental impact assessment – and significantly expanded the area of activity. The issue lies with 66 boreholes in an area of more than 600 hectares, where an open-pit area more than 400 metres across and 150 metres deep has been identified. The entire region has recently received global agricultural heritage status from the FAO.

Has Slipstream Resources Portugal Unipessoal or its parent company, Savannah Resources, received or applied for EU support? If so, were all the environmental impact assessment rules followed?