

**Question for written answer P-006233/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lola Sánchez Caldentey (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Breach of EU directives in the Mar Menor and its surroundings

The Mar Menor is considered to be the most important saltwater coastal lagoon in the western Mediterranean, and the most significant wetland in south-east Spain. The Autonomous Community of Murcia has included the lagoon on the list of areas of European ecological importance under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and the Birds Directive, (2009/147/EC) since it contains six Special Protection Areas for Birds (SPABs) and six Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

At European level, the Mar Menor has been classed as an area at risk of nitrate pollution since 2001 (Directive 91/676/EC) and as a sensitive area (Directive 91/271/EC). Furthermore, in order to ensure sufficient water quality, compliance with the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) is required.

1. What action will the Commission take against any non-compliance with, or breach of, the Habitats Directive and Birds Directive, and in cases where there are no management plans as required under those directives?
2. Since implementation of the Nitrates Directive would have prevented the high pollution levels in the Mar Menor, what action will the Commission take against any breach of that directive in the Campo de Cartagena, which is an area vulnerable to nitrate pollution?