Priority question for written answer P-003927/2019
to the Commission
Rule 138
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Subject: Demolition of works co-financed by EU funds and the extension of the port of Valencia without a strategic environmental assessment

The planned extension of the port of Valencia will involve the demolition of part of the infrastructure that was co-financed by the 2007-2013 Cohesion Fund (specifically new outer harbour walls in the northern dock), without the money invested being returned as stipulated in EU legislation.

With reference to Directive 2014/52/EU on strategic environmental assessment, the Valencian port authority has called for tenders and announced the forthcoming award of a contract for the 'construction and operation, under administrative concession, of the new container terminal at the North Expansion of the port of Valencia'. That project that will be carried out without a proper strategic environmental assessment, since it is based on the 2007 environmental impact statement, which assessed a project that was substantially different and smaller than the current one in terms of its size and intended use. Furthermore, the strategic environmental assessment does not take into account the major impact of the work on the northern access road, which is now considered to be an essential part of the current North Expansion project.

1. Is the Commission aware of this new call for tenders in the port of Valencia project?

2. Will the Commission follow up on this and open up a dialogue with the Spanish authorities?