

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2325/03

by Pedro Marset Campos (GUE/NGL) and Laura González Álvarez (GUE/NGL)  
to the Commission

Subject: Environmental rehabilitation at Portman Bay (Cartagena, Spain)

Between 1959 and 1989, millions of tonnes of waste were dumped in Portman Bay (Cartagena, Spain), creating a layer of slime estimated to occupy 13 m cubic metres and causing the shoreline to recede (by 300 metres since 1957).

Experts consulted state that the waste contains sulphur, arsenic, cadmium, copper, mercury, lead and zinc.

It is clear that the Commission is aware of the situation, as the regional government of Murcia has in the past asked for financial support from the EU for environmental rehabilitation projects for the bay.

The Portman residents' association has expressed its concern over a new development plan for the locality which includes no provision for the total or partial rehabilitation of the polluted areas of the bay.

Is the Commission aware of this development project at the pollution-affected Portman Bay? Has EU funding been requested for this new project? Can the Commission state, with reference to the case in question, whether the competent authorities are properly applying the Community environmental legislation?