

**Question for written answer E-011893/2011  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Ilda Figueiredo (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Problems faced by farmers in the Aveiro Lagoon

At a meeting with farmers during a recent visit to Marinha, in the municipality of Ovar, on the Aveiro Lagoon (Ria de Aveiro), I learned that farmland is increasingly being contaminated by salt water, which is destroying crops and threatening the region's predominantly family-based agriculture. Even houses, some of them over a hundred years old, are starting to be at risk from salt water erosion. This situation has been caused by sedimentation in the Aveiro Lagoon, particularly in the Ovar area, exacerbated by construction works at the port of Aveiro, and calls for parts of the lagoon to be dredged and dikes built to prevent adjoining farmland from being flooded with salt water.

In neighbouring areas, the problem was solved by means of small-scale works. However, these works were then discontinued and local farmers were not allowed to carry on with them, and were even fined, despite promises having been made and projects put forward.

1. Is the Commission aware of the existence of any Community-funded project to dredge the Aveiro Lagoon in the Ovar area?
2. What Community support can be provided for carrying out the necessary projects to remove sedimentation from the lagoon in this area and protect the surrounding land and houses?
3. Does the Commission see any possibility of providing funding to complete the project in the Baixo Vouga Lagunar (lower lake reaches of the Vouga River) and finish work on the dike there, as well as the other works needed to protect farmland and communities living along the lake shore?