

**Question for written answer E-004673/2014  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Willy Meyer (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Plans to dredge the river Guadalquivir

The Seville port authority is planning to dredge the river Guadalquivir where it passes through the city in order to increase the volume of goods transit at the quay. This would have irreversible consequences for the river's ecosystem and neighbouring areas.

The river Guadalquivir flows into an estuary whose ecological importance is immense, since it is located in the Doñana Natural Park, one of Spain's most significant protected areas, and the estuary itself is abundant in a variety of marine molluscs. Hundreds of families depend on the river's resources for their livelihood: molluscs in the estuary, activities linked to the natural park, rice growing, etc. Many of these people have already lodged complaints against the project. Dredging would have an irreversible impact on all these economic activities and on the environmental conditions that make them possible.

This is also a stretch of coastline whose geological balance is closely linked to the flow of sediment from the river. This sediment compensates for the incessant erosion caused by the Atlantic Ocean, which removes metres of coastline every year and makes it dependent on being replenished in this way. The dredging proposed by the port authority would have a serious impact on the flow of sediment and endanger the ecosystems of the areas along the river itself. Unesco has asked that the work should not go ahead owing to the risk it would pose to the Doñana Natural Park, which is a World Heritage Site.

Is the Commission aware of recent developments regarding this project to dredge the river Guadalquivir?

Does it take the view that the corresponding environmental impact statement complies with Community legislation (2011/92/EU and 2003/4/EC)?

Does it take the view that this project, which will have a serious impact on a range of very different areas, complies with European directives on water (2000/16/EC), habitats (92/43/EEC) and birds (2009/147/EC)?