

**Question for written answer E-005413/2018**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Maria Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Reduction of mining companies' fines incompatible with EU environmental law

The Fiscal and Administrative Measures Bill tabled by the Xunta de Galicia alongside its 2019 Budget Act provides explicitly that fines for offences involving failure to comply with environmental remediation requirements or with the provisions of restructuring plans may be reduced by 70% if those responsible for the offence can prove that they have completed the remediation work. The reduction can be increased by a further 10%, resulting in a total discount on the fine of 80%.

In practice, a company that has caused environmental damage but can subsequently argue that it has rectified the harm done (the bill in question does not specify any criteria here or any supervisory body) will see the financial penalty for its actions cut to a merely symbolic level.

These provisions are tailored to suit companies that break environmental protection laws, and could become a sort of negative advertising tool, attracting corporates whose practices are harmful to the environment and society.

(1) In the Commission's view, is this retrograde step for the protection of the environment compatible with the criteria laid down in Directive 2014/52/EU?

(2) Is it compatible with the sustainable development goals included in EU programmes such as Leader or LIFE?