

**Question for written answer E-005318/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Gusmão (GUE/NGL), **Marisa Matias** (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Pollution of the River Ferreira

The River Ferreira, in Paredes, was once the largest trout river in Portugal, but has been polluted for several years due to the Arreigada water treatment plant, a situation that persists without a solution in sight. The nauseating smell and the brownish colour are already characteristic of that river, with serious consequences for ecosystems. At the height of summer, the river's flow is reduced and the discharges continue, which makes the situation worse, by bringing about a real open-air sewer. Already in September 2020, after works had supposedly been carried out on the water treatment plant, new discharges left the river in a deplorable state. It is incomprehensible how a situation that seriously affects the environment and the quality of life of citizens can be left to continue for so many years without anything being done. It is unacceptable that the Portuguese Environment Agency continues to authorise environmental crimes by, for example, authorising untreated discharges, and that the government continues to postpone its promises without providing a permanent solution to the problem. Discharges into the River Ferreira must stop and the river must be cleaned up so as to restore biodiversity.

Given the clear infringement of the Water Framework Directive, how does the Commission intend to urge the Portuguese Government to put a stop to, and reverse, this situation as a matter of urgency?