

**Question for written answer E-005319/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Pollution of the River Sousa

In September 2020, a large quantity of dead fish was found in the River Sousa, in Paredes, which is said to have been caused by yet another discharge of pollutants. The Left Block (*Bloco de Esquerda*) has brought the issue of the pollution of this river to the government's attention more than once, but an inspection does not appear to have been carried out, neither have those responsible been identified, nor has a plan been devised to put an end to these discharges, all of which undermines water quality and biodiversity. It would appear that the discharges stem from an illegal cattle farm right in the heart of the National Ecological Reserve of Lousada, which has already been served a closure order, and against which an appeal has been lodged, it being argued that the water sector falls within the remit of the Portuguese Environment Agency. With environmental crimes taking place throughout Portuguese territory, seemingly in all impunity, and for long enough to render some of the consequences irreversible, it is a matter of urgency to ascertain what work has been done by the Portuguese Environment Agency and whether economic considerations are being given priority over environmental considerations.

1. In the light of yet another situation which is at odds with the Water Framework Directive, does the Commission plan to put pressure on the Portuguese Government?
2. Is the Commission prepared to seriously address the lack of monitoring and the ensuing impunity with regard to environmental crimes in Portugal?