

**Question for written answer E-005372/2020/rev.2
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pollution in the Vizela River

Starting in the Alto de Morgaír, in Fafe, the Vizela River meanders its way through the municipalities of Fafe, Felgueiras, Guimarães, Vizela and Santo Tirso, before finally flowing into the Ave River.

This river is constantly exposed to polluting discharges, making it one of the most polluted in Europe. This conflicts with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000), transposed into Portuguese law by Law No 58/2005 of 29 December 2005.

Despite attempts by the Portuguese authorities to control pollution into the Vizela River, the discharges continue. The water has now been polluted for years, with local residents continuing to live alongside it. This situation is unacceptable and needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency, as it is incomprehensible that a river can continue to be exposed to these levels of pollution.

In the light of the above, what action will the Commission take to urge Portugal to ensure that the Water Framework Directive is enforced in order to protect the Vizela River?