

**Question for written answer E-005601/2020
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Pernando Barrena Arza (GUE/NGL), **Diana Riba i Giner** (Verts/ALE), **Jordi Solé** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Pollution at the tin and tungsten mine in Santa Comba (Galicia)

Recently, Petition No 511/2020 on a mine closed in 1986 whose concession was due to expire in 2008 was submitted to the Committee on Petitions. Although reports show that the mine should have been subject to an environmental impact assessment, the Galician regional government allowed two companies to acquire the concession and approved their plans for it, ignoring EU directives on environmental impact assessments and public participation. The Galician government has systematically prevented the petitioner and various associations from accessing environmental information on the Santa Comba mine, in breach of the Aarhus Convention and the Council Decision of 17 February 2005 on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

1. Is the Commission aware of this breach?
2. Will it ask Spain and the Galician regional government for an explanation of the plans and clarify the need to comply with EU law?