

**Question for written answer E-002778/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

José Gusmão (The Left), **Marisa Matias** (The Left)

Subject: Pollution in the Este River

The source of the Este River is in Braga, which it crosses for about 45 kilometres until it flows into the Ave River, which in turn flows near Vila do Conde.

Over the years, the Este River has been a dumping ground for pollutants. For example, over the last five years, the Service for the Protection of Nature and the Environment has received 125 complaints. Yet in 2019 only three companies received fines and in 2020 only one company was fined. There have been a number of discharges so far in 2021, the last of which was on 14 May.

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.

Water is a key asset, and it is not acceptable that a river is polluted to such an extent. The authorities must intervene and put an end to this destructive behaviour.

What measures will the Commission take to urge Portugal to ensure that it complies with the Water Framework Directive and protects the Este River?