

**Question for written answer E-003589/2021**  
**to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)**

**Subject:** The Muga project: building a potash mine between Navarre and Aragon

Geoalcali, a subsidiary of the Australian company Highfield Resources, is the developer of the Muga project, the aim of which is to build a potash mine – the largest underground mine in Spain – between Navarre and Aragon. A number of associations and reports have drawn attention to risks of seismic activity that were ignored in the environmental impact and safety assessments carried out in the vicinity of the Yesa reservoir. According to estimates, the mine will produce four million tonnes of waste per year and pollute watercourses and aquifers with salt. The 102 500 HGVs visiting the site each year will generate significant emissions, and the site itself will consume an amount of water sufficient to supply 165 000 people. At the same time, however, the ‘farm to fork’ strategy proposes a 30% cut in fertiliser use. That is inconsistent with potash mining. Safety problems are compounded by the potential depopulation of the area owing to the obvious deterioration of the land.

1. Does the Commission take the view that such mines are consistent with the relevant EU strategy? What is that strategy?
2. In view of the impact of the project, how does the Commission recommend that repeated failures to comply with environmental legislation – such as those that occurred with the Súría and Sallent mines – should be avoided?