

**Question for written answer E-003602/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: For how much longer do residents have to put up with polluting discharges and contaminated water in Sertã?

Polluted waterways in the municipality of Sertã are nothing new. In fact, the Bloco de Esquerda (Left Bloc) complained a number of times, in 2018 and 2020, about discharges into the Ribeira Grande and Ribeira do Amioso, which left the water a very murky colour and with a dark brown hue. At the time, the Portuguese Government replied that 'the lift systems do not have the capacity to raise all the flow of water'. In May of this year, the pollution took the form of foul-smelling spots of foam and grease. Sertã authorities confirmed that it was aware of the polluting discharges and the Nature and Environmental Protection Service team of the National Republican Guard (SEPNA/GNR) took note of these incidents. The Government is aware of this recurring environmental problem, yet their response is that 'the design, deployment and management of waterways falls within the competence of the municipality of Sertã'. In the context of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, what will the Commission do to urge the Portuguese Government to remedy this situation instead of delaying it, not accepting responsibility and allowing the waterways to continue to be affected?