

**Question for written answer E-004043/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Repeat offences by the company Frusoal in Rio Formosa Natural Park

The Tavira em Transição movement has reported environmental destruction by the company Frusoal in Manta Rota (Vila Real de Santo António) to a number of entities. The company plans to plant more than 15 hectares of irrigated citrus orchards in Ria Formosa Natural Park (part of the Natura 2000 network). These works have wiped out native species, caused soil movement, cleared plant cover, destroyed dunes and changed the profile of terrain that falls partially inside a protected area. The Institute for Nature Conservation and Forests (ICNF) blocked part of the works but, despite that block, Frusoal has continued work. The Left Bloc has already questioned the Portuguese Government about this state of affairs and called for it to be resolved. On top of this infringement in a protected area, the large volumes of water that the orchards are expected to consume will exacerbate water stress, which is already high. The Water Framework Directive should protect not only water quality but also access to water.

1. Will the Commission urge the Portuguese Government to resolve this state of affairs quickly and speed up the application of sanctions when environmental law is being grossly violated?
2. Does the Commission take the view that the continued practice of irrigated farming may be in conflict with the Water Framework Directive?