

**Question for written answer E-004423/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Wall of plastic bags on the Praia da Estela

The Praia da Estela, in Póvoa de Varzim, has a golf course in the middle of its primary dune.

With coastal erosion and rising sea levels casting doubt on the future of the golf course, the owners decided to fashion a wall of sand bags in a bid to contain the damage. This move is not only disfiguring the landscape but will have damaging effects on the environment too.

The bags contain plastic, which breaks down with exposure to the sea and atmospheric conditions, thus polluting the sand and sea. This state of affairs constitutes a breach of the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000, incorporated into Portuguese law by Act 58/2005 of 29 December 2005).

It is baffling to see that building projects are still being given the go-ahead on the primary dunes. Polluting the beach and the ocean with plastic is unacceptable! This matter needs to be dealt with urgently!

In the light of the above, what steps will the Commission take to compel Portugal to protect the environment and comply with the Water Framework Directive on the Praia da Estela in Póvoa de Varzim?