

**Question for written answer E-004424/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Closure of the Rio Mau landfill site in Penafiel

Rio Mau, a parish in the Serra da Boneca, in the municipality of Penafiel, has a landfill site for non-hazardous waste, known as the 'Aterro de Rio Mau'. Built above a river, the site has been marked for closure for the past 12 years, but its licence has been repeatedly extended.

Local residents have long been complaining about the problems associated with the landfill, such as the fact that the leachate flows into waterways and that gulls spread the refuse around the Serra da Boneca and residential areas.

Apathetic, the Portuguese Environment Agency has repeatedly renewed the licence, thereby undermining environmental protection and violating 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).

The Rio Mau landfill site should have been closed 12 years ago; for the sake of human health and the environment, we cannot allow any further delay.

In the light of the above, what steps will the Commission take to compel Portugal to comply with the Water Framework Directive to protect the parish of Rio Mau in the Serra da Boneca?