

**Question for written answer E-004425/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Pollution of the Balsemão River, Lamego

Since at least 2018, effluents have been being illegally discharged into the Balsemão River (municipality of Lamego). The repeated complaints made to the Portuguese authorities have been left unanswered and met with no corrective measures.

Discharged close to a residential area and bathing spot, the effluents pose a public health risk. What is more, the surrounding farmland is irrigated with water pumped from the river; this will lead to soil contamination.

In July 2021, bathing in the river had to be banned in Bairro da Ponte – the only riverside recreation area in the city centre – after salmonella was detected.

This constitutes a serious assault on the environment – the effects of which are being felt by local residents – and a violation of the Water Framework Directive, which was incorporated into Portuguese law by Act 58/2005 of 29 December 2005.

In view of the above and the inertia of the Portuguese State, what steps will the Commission take to compel Portugal to comply with the Water Framework Directive for the protection of the Balsemão River?