

**Question for written answer E-004538/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pollutants in the River Ave – social and environmental impact

With its source in the Serra da Cabreira, the River Ave winds its way through many municipalities on the way to its mouth in Vila do Conde.

In the Calça Ferros Leisure Park (in the parish of Pedome, in the municipality of Vila Nova de Famalicão, Braga district), the smell on the banks of the River Ave is frequently so nauseating as to render any leisure activity no fun at all. Indeed, visitors are prevented from enjoying the park as they should: they cannot meet friends or exercise, and they most certainly cannot swim or fish in the river.

Forced to breathe in the foul stench caused by the effluents frequently discharged into the river, local residents with houses close to the Ave, the park and a few factories are concerned about the effect of this nearby pollution on their health. They have joined forces with environmental activists in calling on the authorities to investigate and subsequently clean up the River Ave. Their calls have so far fallen on deaf ears.

What has been long happening in this stretch of the River Ave constitutes a violation of EU environmental law as laid down in the Water Framework Directive.

In view of this, what steps will the Commission take to compel the Portuguese Government to comply with national and EU legislation?