

**Question for written answer E-004539/2021  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pollution of the River Leça – environmental and social impact

With its source in Monte Córdova, the River Leça flows through four municipalities in the district of Porto: Santo Tirso, Valongo, Maia and Matosinhos.

The River Leça was once considered one of Portugal's most idyllic rivers, and its banks teem with social and economic activities. Yet, for many years, farms and the various industries lining its course have been discharging pollutants into its waters.

Local residents – assaulted by a stench so nauseating at certain points along the river that they cannot enjoy the parks, swim or fish – and a number of environmental associations have been sounding the alarm and calling for the river to be cleaned up. The authorities, however, have done virtually nothing – or, at least, nothing of substance likely to have the desired effect – to follow up the matter.

This has been going on in the River Leça for a long time and constitutes a violation of the Water Framework Directive. Those responsible must therefore be held to account, and rapid, effective action taken.

In the light of the above, what steps will the Commission take to demand that the Portuguese Government comply with the relevant EU and national legislation?