

**Question for written answer E-004588/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Landfill in the Sotavento Algarvio

The Sotavento landfill – in Cortelha, in the municipality of Loulé, Faro district – is the disposal site for household refuse from Faro, Olhão, São Brás de Alportel, Tavira, Vila Real de Santo António, Castro Marim and Alcoutim.

Opened in 1998, the Sotavento landfill is located in the Guadiana river basin, in a zone classified as a national ecological area. Around three years ago – with the licensing process still ongoing – the management company began constructing a new cell.

The site has been challenged on numerous occasions by both local residents and environmental associations, who have complained of the stench and contamination of the watercourses. Back in 2017 and 2018, for example, leachate was found to be running off into the Vascão stream, a tributary of the River Guadiana.

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), which was incorporated into Portuguese law by Act 58/2005 of 29 December 2005.

In the light of the above, what steps will the Commission take to compel Portugal to comply with the Water Framework Directive with regard to the Sotavento landfill?