

**Question for written answer E-000584/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Polluted wastewater flowing into the Das Hortas River in Santa Comba Dão

Since 2001 the Das Hortas River in Santa Comba Dão has suffered regular pollution, damaging the riverside ecosystem, its fauna and flora, as well as the quality of life of those who live and work along the river. Most of this pollution has been from sewage pumped from the Santa Comba Dão wastewater treatment plant, which is both damaging the environment and is posing worrying risks for public health.

The Dão River's catchment area is of great importance for the region, both in the tourism sector and for sport, agriculture and leisure activities, and it also greatly supports biodiversity by hosting migratory birds that feed and shelter on the banks of the Dão River and its tributaries. We therefore need to eradicate all sources of pollution to ensure the conservation of fauna and flora and the quality of life of the people who live and work nearby.

Since this situation constitutes a breach of the Water Framework Directive and the Urban Wastewater Directive, what will the Commission do to urge Portugal to enforce them and thus protect the Das Hortas River?