

**Question for written answer E-001478/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: The 14-year-long public health crisis in Urgeiriça

The village of Urgeiriça, in Canas de Senhorim, part of the municipality of Nelas in the district of Viseu, is well-known for its uranium mines, decommissioned some 20 years ago.

In 2008, after it was found that more than a hundred homes of former mineworkers showed worrying levels of radiation, a phased decontamination process was begun. Fourteen years later, however, there remain houses that have either not been effectively decontaminated or left untouched.

The Association of Former Uranium Mineworkers has attempted to improve matters, so far without success.

Uranium's radioactive properties have led to an increased incidence of cancer-related diseases among the population. This state of affairs thus constitutes an attack on the health of former uranium miners and their families. It defies belief that these people remain exposed to dangerous levels of radioactivity because of the failure of the bodies responsible, namely the mining company and the Portuguese Government.

What measures will the Commission therefore adopt to urge the Portuguese Government to comply with and enforce the applicable EU legislation, namely Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 201