

**Question for written answer E-002509/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Pollution in the Lis River basin

The Lis River basin, in Portugal's central region, covers the municipalities of

Leiria, Pombal, Batalha, Marinha Grande, Porto de Mós (district of Leiria) and Ourém (district of Santarém). Livestock-raising in this area, a mainstay of the local economy, creates effluents which are systematically and illegally discharged into water courses, which have no treatment plants able to deal with the volumes produced.

The pollution has been going on for decades, despite being reported on several occasions and the approval of two draft laws by the Portuguese Parliament, in 2018 (371/XIII/3 – Recommendation to the government to build a publicly managed pig- effluent treatment plant in Leiria) and 2021 (1071/XIV/2 – Towards an action plan for the depollution and rehabilitation of the Lis River basin). EUR 9.1 million in EU funding was allocated for the construction of an effluent treatment plant under Portugal's Mainland Rural Development plan (PDR 2020) but this financing has been cancelled, leaving works – contracted to Recilis – at a standstill.

This pollution constitutes a serious problem for the environment, public health and people's well-being.

This state of affairs also represents a breach of the provisions of the Water Framework Directive. What measures will the Commission take to urge Portugal to ensure compliance with it in order to protect the Lis River basin?