

**Question for written answer E-003252/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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

Subject: Violation of the Albufeira Convention – reduction in water quantity and quality

The Spanish government is going to reduce the water flow of the Douro and Tagus rivers to Portugal, violating the mutually agreed Albufeira Convention and leaving flows 10% below the agreed level in a time of extreme drought. The reduction in water reaching Portugal through the Tagus could be as much as 40 %. This plan will put electricity production, agriculture and the domestic water supply network at risk. In Portugal, neither the hydrographic administrations nor the National Water Council are taking any action, with everything being left to the Portuguese Environment Agency, which constantly allows environmental disasters to happen. Experts are already warning that water quality will deteriorate. Portugal and Spain are both facing an extreme drought and must adopt more sustainable agricultural and water use models. What cannot be allowed to happen is a violation of the Albufeira Convention owing to pressure from large Spanish producers, significantly jeopardizing Portugal. Does the European Commission intend to take any steps to protect water resources under the Water Framework Directive?