

**Question for written answer E-002823/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The situation of the River Cega

The River Cega is facing a critical situation. The Ministry for the Ecological Transition has approved a drastic reduction to its ecological flow, in order to divert more water for use in intensive agriculture in the Carracillo area and also allowing more bodies of groundwater to be further exploited, thus jeopardising the water supply of more than 15 000 people.

What is more, a number of nearby aquifers are polluted and overexploited. Now, the same is set to happen to the River Cega, a Natura 2000 site, and all this with the connivance of the Regional Government of Castile and Leon.

In the light of the above:

1. What is the Commission's view of the Ministry's decision to reduce – without carrying out a proper environmental assessment – the flow regime in the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Banks of the River Cega (ES4180070) from 6 898 l/s to only 1 072.44 l/s for intensive and polluting agriculture tied to the Carracillo irrigation community?
2. Does the Commission consider that it should wait until the damage is done and practically irreversible before it acts, as has been the case with other protected sites in Spain?
3. What measures will it take to prevent these possible breaches of EU law?

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