

**Question for written answer E-003325/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Idoia Villanueva Ruiz (The Left)

Subject: EUR 14 million lost, 1 700 families affected and shellfish gatherers in danger of being swept away after water released from a reservoir in Galicia

Naturgy's management of a dam upstream from the Noia estuary, Galicia, has affected seafood production and the local economy after a sudden release of water to generate hydroelectric energy changed the water's physical and chemical properties. This went against the Water Framework Directive (WFD), which requires the ecological condition of bodies of water to be preserved. Similar issues have been reported all over Spain, with the release of water from reservoirs in Extremadura in 2022 and 2023 in periods of drought, where companies prioritise 'windfall profits' over environmental factors, local economic activities and people's safety. The company compromised safety by opening the gates (at 5.15) with no prior warning (Civil Protection informed at 5.18), putting shellfish gatherers at risk of being swept away. Given that these practices have been repeated without waiting for reports from the river basin authorities on compliance with the WFD and in view of the safety breaches:

1. Does the Commission intend to take proactive steps to investigate and address the issue?
2. If so, will it notify the Regional Government of Galicia, Naturgy and the Galicia-Costa river basin authority?

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