

**Question for written answer E-003336/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Ana Miranda (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Risk of loss of European funding for the clean-up of the Barbaña river and improvement of the San Cibrao das Viñas waste-water treatment plant (Ourense)

The project to complete the cleaning up of the Barbaña river and improve the San Cibrao das Viñas waste-water treatment plant, phase II (Ourense), is facing a new setback, as the Spanish Ministry of Transport, Mobility and Urban Agenda has confirmed that the preliminary environmental procedure has been suspended due to deficiencies found in the project. This situation risks jeopardising the allocated European co-financing in the amount of EUR 14 889 406.18 from the European Regional Development Fund, under Spain's Pluri-regional Operational Programme 2014-2020, as the deadline for certification of expenditure is 31 December 2023 and the deadline for completion of the works is 31 March 2025.

Despite promises of a call for tenders by the end of 2022, the current reality suggests that the future clean-up of this river, which is in a poor ecological state, is far from completion, putting at risk the construction of a new waste-water treatment plant and the renovation of the sewerage infrastructure, which is urgently needed in view of the growing population and industrial activity. In the light of this urgent situation, does the Commission intend to find a solution which will enable the project to continue receiving EU funding?

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