

**Question for written answer E-015629/2015
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Lidia Senra Rodríguez (GUE/NGL)

Subject: Construction of a dam on the River Minho

The stretch of the River Minho known as Castro Romai, in Lugo, has protected natural area status since it forms part of the following designated sites:

1. Parga-Ladra-Támoga Special Protection Area;
2. Parga-Ladra-Támoga Special Area of Conservation;
3. Core zone of the Terras do Minho Biosphere Reserve.

The Minho-Sil Hydrographic Confederation, which is subordinate to the Ministry of Public Works, has approved a project for the construction of a mini hydropower plant inside a protected natural area. The plans provide for a significant increase in turbine flow by comparison with the volume initially approved (7 000 l/s), and this will pose a threat to the ecological status of this stretch of the river (Water Framework Directive).

The environmental impact report for the project took no account of biodiversity, even though the site has been designated a special protection and conservation area and biosphere reserve.

Is it permissible to construct dams (using stone and soil), dry out river channels and increase the river flow in a special protection and conservation area and biosphere reserve?