

**Question for written answer E-013934/2015/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Santiago Fisas Ayxelà (PPE)

Subject: Plan to address the apple snail infestation in the Ebro Delta

The Government of Catalonia recently launched a plan to combat the apple snail infestation in the Ebro Delta, the details of which are set out in decree ARP/296/2015. The plan has been allocated a budget of EUR 5 million from the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (Decision C(2015) 5325 of 28 July 2015) and will entail, among other measures, flushing out the Ebro Delta irrigation system with seawater. With a view to ensuring the correct use of EU funds in connection with the measures taken by the Government of Catalonia,

1. Could the Commission say, given that concrete can be seriously damaged by salt, what measures have been taken to protect the installations in the Ebro Delta from salt in the seawater that will be used to flood its waterways to combat this infestation?
2. Can the Commission reveal the cost of the measures taken to protect the Ebro Delta's waterways from the salt in the seawater used to eliminate the apple snail infestation?
3. Can the Commission say whether these measures have been, or will be, financed using EU funds?