

**Question for written answer E-000458/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Eugenia Rodríguez Palop (The Left)

Subject: Absence of a cross-border environmental impact study on the heightening of the Riotinto mine dams in Huelva province

In December 2021, the Regional Government of Andalusia publicly released the administrative proceedings relating to the amendment of the environmental permits for the Riotinto mining project (Modificación Sustancial de la Autorización Ambiental Unificada del Proyecto Minero Riotinto) and the update of the project's restoration plan (Actualización del Plan de Restauración)¹, which propose the heightening of two Category A dams – ranked the most dangerous – when this would potentially have cross-border environmental consequences for another Member State. However, the Regional Government has not informed the Spanish Ministry for Foreign Affairs of this project so that the Portuguese Government can also be made aware and decide whether it wishes to carry out a cross-border assessment, as is required by Directives 2014/52/EU, 2011/92/EU and 2001/42/EC.

1. Is the Commission aware of this breach of the directives on compulsory cross-border environmental consultations?
2. Was the Commission aware that the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs had not informed the Portuguese Ministry for Foreign Affairs of this project which has cross-border implications?
3. How will the Commission remedy this failure in the cross-border impact assessment system and ensure that such an assessment is truly carried out in this case?

¹ <https://www.juntadeandalucia.es/servicios/participacion/todos-documentos/detalle/231822.html>