




## Parliamentary questions

30 November 2015

E-015252-15

Question for written answer  
to the Commission  
Rule 130  
Molly Scott Cato (Verts/ALE)

► Subject: Spanish polluting spills into Western Beach, Gibraltar

 Answer(s)

In answer ([P-004804/2015](#)), the Commission confirmed that it was aware of the pollution by sewage in bathing waters at Western Beach, Gibraltar, caused by the diversion of a storm drain in La Linea de la Concepcion, Spain, and claimed to have contacted the Spanish authorities to gather information.

In a previous answer ([E-007377/2014](#)), the Commission stated that it would follow up the Spanish authorities' proposals to alleviate the problem, including a foreseen EUR 6.5 million investment to remove waste water from rainwater collection systems and ensure regular monitoring of discharge points.

The situation has not improved, and concern is escalating. According to the Bathing Water Quality Directive (2006/7/EC), the Member States must ensure that the quality of all bathing waters for the 2016 bathing season is at least 'sufficient'. Data suggests that, unless the problem is resolved quickly, bathing at Western Beach will have to be prohibited for 2016.

Can the Commission confirm:

1. Whether it has ascertained the steps taken by Spanish authorities to conduct necessary infrastructural works to alleviate pollution at this site and if so, what have these been?
2. When it is envisaged that these works will be completed?
3. Whether any EU funding has been granted to Spanish authorities for this project?

Last updated: 9 February 2016

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## Parliamentary questions

5 May 2015

P-004804/2015

Answer given by Mr Vella on behalf of the Commission

The Commission is aware of the possible pollution situation of the bathing site 'Playa del Oeste/Western Beach', in the Bay of Algeciras, referred to by the Honourable Member. The origin of such pollution is the diversion of a storm drain in the municipality of La Línea de la Concepción, discharging sewage near that beach.

The Commission formally contacted the Spanish authorities, to gather further information on the situation.

Last updated: 6 May 2015

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## Parliamentary questions

2 December 2014

E-007377/2014

### Answer given by Mr Vella on behalf of the Commission

Under EU pilot 3164/12/ENVI, the Commission asked the Spanish authorities to provide updated information on spills from the collecting systems in La Línea de la Concepción, Cádiz (Andalucía), which might be linked to the pollution problems in Western Beach, Gibraltar.

In their last reply received in April 2014 the Spanish authorities recognised that there had been polluting spills (overflows), in 2013, some of them during the bathing season.

According to the Spanish authorities, the main reasons for the polluted spills may be inadequate maintenance of the collecting system and the pumping stations, together with some 'uncontrolled' inputs of waste water from households in La Línea to the rain water collecting system.

The Spanish authorities also stated that the municipalities in Campo de Gibraltar (amongst them 'La Línea'), had recently signed an agreement with a public company which is a subsidiary of the Spanish Public Works Ministry (Ministerio de Fomento) to, inter alia, find and remove any waste water from the rain water collecting systems and ensure regular monitoring at the discharge points. The aforementioned project foresees an initial investment of EUR 6.5 million.

The Commission will closely follow up the efforts by the Spanish authorities to solve the abovementioned problems.

Last updated: 3 December 2014

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## Parliamentary questions

25 February 2016

E-015252/2015

### Answer given by Mr Vella on behalf of the Commission

1. Municipalities located in Campo de Gibraltar County (including La Línea de la Concepción, the likely source of waste water pollution in Western Beach) signed an agreement with a Spanish public company in 2014 with a view to improving the urban waste water infrastructure in their territory. The Commission asked the Spanish authorities to provide detailed information on actions to be taken to reach at least 'sufficient' bathing water quality in Western Beach.
2. The 29 May 2015 reply of the Spanish authorities did not provide satisfactory answers to the Commission's questions.
3. The general forecast of investment in this County, reflected in the aforementioned agreement, amounts to EUR 6.5 million. The Commission has no information about the source of this investment.
4. In what concerns EU funding, the managing authorities of European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes in Spain publish a list of selected projects. In the Operation Programme (OP) for Andalucía, a project titled 'Saneamiento, depuración y reutilización de agua residual regenerada en los municipios del Campo de Gibraltar: colectores de Algeciras' is foreseen. The Commission has requested information as regards whether this project directly addresses the problem and whether other projects are foreseen to address it using structural funds.

Since the reply by Spanish authorities does not provide a satisfactory answer concerning the way forward to settle the pollution problems in Western Beach, the Commission is considering legal action to ensure that the agglomeration of La Línea de la Concepción complies with the collection and treatment requirements of Directive 91/271/EEC<sup>(1)</sup>.

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(1) OJ L 135, 30.5.1991, p. 40-52.

Last updated: 10 March 2016

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