




Parliamentary questions

29 June 2017

E-004364-17

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

► **Subject: Discharge of waste water from La Línea de la Concepción into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters off Western Beach, Gibraltar**

 Answer(s)

My constituents in Gibraltar remain concerned over the lack of action by the Spanish authorities to address the uncontrolled discharge of waste water from La Línea de la Concepción (Spain) into British Gibraltar Territorial Waters off Western Beach, Gibraltar. A petition concerning the presence of *E. coli* bacteria in waters off Western Beach was declared admissible by Parliament's Committee on Petitions as early as June 2011, and the Commission has confirmed that it considers that such discharges are likely to have caused the microbiological pollution detected at Western Beach. I am pleased to note that an infringement procedure was opened against Spain in December 2016 as a result of its breach of Directive 91/271/EEC. However, in circumstances where Spain continues to breach this directive this could result in the closure of Western Beach to bathers for yet another summer season.

Can the Commission confirm what commitments and timeframes for compliance the Spanish Government has proposed in order to resolve the current state of affairs?

Can the Commission also provide an update with regard to the progress of the infringement proceedings?

Last updated: 13 July 2017

[Legal notice](#)



Parliamentary questions

9 August 2017

E-004364/2017

Answer given by Mr Vella on behalf of the Commission

In May 2017, the Spanish authorities replied to the letter of formal notice sent by the Commission for failing to comply with the requirements of Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment⁽¹⁾.

The Commission is currently assessing in detail the specific situation and the results of the treatment applied to the waste water in the agglomeration of La Línea de la Concepción. A decision will be taken once the assessment for all the agglomerations included in this case is finalised.

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