Question for written answer E-004315/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Cumulative impact of mining discharge from Aznalcóllar and Cobre Las Cruces into the Guadalquivir

In Seville, two new mining projects plan to discharge industrial waste water into the Guadalquivir. The Aznalcóllar mine project – authorised in 2025 and currently in the preparatory phase – includes plans for a pipeline approximately 30 kilometres long to discharge some 85.5 billion litres of treated water into the Guadalquivir estuary during its operating lifetime.

Meanwhile, Cobre Las Cruces plans discharges into the Guadalquivir in the vicinity of La Algaba.

According to published estimates, both projects jointly project discharges of more than 115 billion litres of industrial waste water into the Guadalquivir, raising concerns about the potential cumulative effects on water quality and ecosystems in the estuary, especially the risks associated with the presence of heavy metals.

The Commission classed the Cobre Las Cruces polymetallurgical project as strategic in 2025.

In light of the above:

1. Has the Commission assessed the potential cumulative effects of both sources of discharge and their compatibility with the Water Framework Directive?

2. Does it consider the environmental assessments carried out to sufficiently ensure the protection of the Bajo Guadalquivir special area of conservation, in line with the Habitats Directive?

3. How will the Commission ensure that mining projects classed as strategic fully comply with EU environmental legislation?

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