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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.8.2025)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD)¹ requires Member States to ensure good status of all water bodies. Any project having an impact on the water bodies must undergo a full assessment under Article 4(7) WFD and be subject to an environmental impact assessment procedure in line with the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIAD)², ensuring the permits include all the necessary conditions for compliance with EU law. The Spanish authorities are responsible for ensuring conditions to avoid the deterioration of the status of the affected water body and must take action if any deviation from the permits takes place.

According to publicly available information, the competent authorities have issued an environmental impact statement for the project in question³, resulting from an environmental study carried out in accordance with the applicable EU environmental legislation. That assessment involved a participatory process in which the public concerned had the opportunity to express their opinion in relation to the project.

In any case, the environmental impact statement issued does not constitute authorisation for the project, which is subject to obtaining all the permits required by Spanish and European legislations. Moreover, the EIAD provides for specific review procedures that citizens can use if they consider that the applicable provisions of EU law have not been correctly applied.

¹ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1–73.

² Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1–21, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, OJ L 124, 25.4.2014, p. 1–18., specifies that for cellulose-processing and production installations (projects included in its Annex II point 8.d) Member States have to determine whether they shall be subject to an environmental impact assessment prior to their authorisation.

³ DOG Núm. 51-14 March 2025 – page 17257.