



Plenary sitting

B8-0061/2017

10.1.2017

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

pursuant to Rule 133 of the Rules of Procedure
on environmental risks linked to the use of dams

Mireille D'Ornano

Motion for a European Parliament resolution on environmental risks linked to the use of dams

The European Parliament,

- having regard to Articles 11 and 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,
- having regard to Rule 133 of its Rules of Procedure,
- A. whereas in 2015, the Commission ordered France to open up to competition some 50 hydropower concessions that came up for renewal between 2011 and 2015, and whereas, a few days later, two mining dams burst in Brazil;
- B. whereas those ruptures released tens of thousands of cubic metres of toxic sludge and caused major damage to the environment, once again highlighting the risks that dams pose;
- C. whereas dams prevent the circulation of sediment, which collects in reservoirs, where the water stagnates and various pollutants build up, destroying flora, fauna and the countryside;
- D. whereas dams deprive migrating fish (salmon, eels, etc.) of access to areas in which they can reproduce, and whereas this increases the rate at which species die out;
- 1. Calls on the Commission to recognise the danger that dams pose to the environment;
- 2. Encourages the Commission to restrict the extent to which the hydropower sector is opened up to competition, in order to prevent a situation in which the pursuit of profit jeopardises the safety of structures requiring costly maintenance.