

**Question for written answer E-011351/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Doru-Claudian Frunzuliță (S&D)

Subject: The situation of micro hydro plants in Romania

According to the WWF Romania organisation, over 500 micro hydro plants are in different stages of approval, construction or operation, and among these, over a quarter are located in protected areas or in their close vicinity, therefore posing the highest risk of loss of the quality of the waters in question and of the related biodiversity. The micro hydro plant projects on the Dejani-Lupșa and Vistișoara Rivers on the western slope of the Făgăraș Mountains, as well as the ones on the Capra and Buda Rivers on the southern slope of the Făgăraș Mountains are systematically infringing the European and national legislation on water and biodiversity, as regards the authorisation of constructions and their location in protected areas of European interest (Natura 2000). The project on the Alb River in Retezat or the ones on the Bistra Mărului, Șucu and Olteana Rivers in the Țarcu Mountains were also approved although they were illegal. These projects violate the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive (Natura 2000) and the Directive on the public access to information on the environment in the process of authorisation and construction of micro hydro plants on rivers with very good and good ecological status in the Natura 2000 sites.

What measures is the Commission considering in order to support the amendments that must be made in the national laws in the field, so that they no longer leave room for abuse?