

**Question for written answer E-015605/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Norica Nicolai (ALDE)**

Subject: Small hydropower plants in Natura 2000 sites

In the light of the growing concern regarding the ecological impact of small hydropower plants on rivers ecosystems, in particular on the migration for reproduction purposes of important endangered species such as salmon, sea trout and eel, and taking into consideration the fact that the Commission is working on a guidance document on hydropower development in Natura 2000 sites, the Commission is asked to answer the following:

1. Why does it allow the construction of these dams in protected areas such as Natura 2000?
2. How does it justify these projects as not being contrary to the Natura 2000 objectives?