

Question for written answer E-001244/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Francesc Gambús (PPE)

Subject: Ter river basin

A number of farmers' organisations have reported that Girona could experience serious irrigation problems from next year. In addition to the lack of rainfall this winter, the situation has been caused by the transfer of water from the River Ter to Barcelona. This is the only water transfer in Spain for which farmers do not receive any type of compensation.

Given that water is essential for growing fruit trees and other irrigated crops in Girona:

- Does the Commission consider that the failure to compensate farmers for the Ter water transfer is in keeping with the spirit of the Water Framework Directive?
- Does the Commission think that the adjustments required to guarantee irrigation capacity for farmers could be offset by using certain rural development measures, such as the payments provided for in the Water Framework Directive, which Member States can use to offset drawbacks and restrictions linked to the implementation of the directive?
- Does the Commission have plans to ease the pressure on aquifers and water resources in heavily populated zones and urban areas, such as metropolitan Barcelona?