

**Question for written answer E-002960/2016/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Compliance with minimum environmental flow rate

The Emilia Romagna Regional Government recently adopted the proposal by the regional environmental protection agency ARPA on 'determining minimum environmental flow' (MEF) in compliance with Directive 2000/60/EC and the river basin authority's water management plan.

With reference to the river Nure (an SCI site), a watercourse subject to flash flooding, a seasonal MEF rate has been determined that is unrealistic, especially during the summer period, owing to the manifest water shortage that has been exacerbated in recent years by the now chronic drought situation.

There are dozens of farms in the area encompassed by the Nure valley. Of the 3 990 hectares of land in total, 2 790 hectares are irrigated on a rotation system, with tomatoes grown on 60 % of this land while the remaining 40 % is used for growing maize and vegetables or as meadows.

Farmers find that even abstraction from below the level of the river bed is impossible when the river does not even have the rate of flow needed to comply with the MEF.

- Is the Commission planning to review the rules on calculation of MEF in order to take into account specific special situations such as the one described above?
- In the Commission's opinion, does legislation in force allow for a different calculation system to be used in specific special situations such as the one described above or are exemptions provided for at least?