

**Question for written answer E-006599/2017  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Jørn Dohrmann (ECR)**

Subject: Phosphorus mobilisation and environmental impact assessments

As part of the efforts that are being made to reduce nitrogen input, farmland in Denmark is being flooded to create new wetlands. The idea behind these new wetlands is to create deoxidised soil conditions in order for denitrification to take place.

This process, however, also has a number of unintended consequences, including the transformation of ferric iron (Fe(III)) into ferrous iron (Fe(II)), resulting in phosphorus mobilisation. This means there is a risk of large quantities of phosphorus being discharged into lakes and coastal waters.

The basis for this question is an in-depth assessment<sup>1</sup> completed by an international panel of five researchers on 19 October 2017. The assessment focuses on Denmark's nitrogen models, on which the current river basin management plans are based. One of the assessment's main conclusions is that Denmark's river basin management plans focus solely on nitrogen, and not on phosphorus or the ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus.

Can the Commission confirm that, under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive, if the mobilisation of phosphorus into the aquatic environment cannot be ruled out in advance, then an EIA must be carried out in respect of plans to create new wetlands, with phosphorus input being among the issues taken into account?

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<sup>1</sup>

[http://mfvm.dk/fileadmin/user\\_upload/MFVM/Nyheder/Bilag\\_1\\_Evalueringsrapport\\_om\\_de\\_danske\\_kva\\_elstofmodeller\\_\\_10.\\_oktober\\_2017-2.pdf](http://mfvm.dk/fileadmin/user_upload/MFVM/Nyheder/Bilag_1_Evalueringsrapport_om_de_danske_kva_elstofmodeller__10._oktober_2017-2.pdf)