

**Question for written answer E-000707/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Ernest Urtasun (Verts/ALE), Francesc Gambús (PPE), Josep-Maria Terricabras (Verts/ALE),
Javi López (S&D) and Jordi Solé (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Possibility of including sediment management in EU legislation

The EP's Committee on Petitions carried out a fact-finding field visit in February 2016 to meet the petitioners behind petitions 0938/2012 and 0834/2012, and to initiate a dialogue with the Spanish authorities to gain a better understanding of the various aspects of the alleged breach of EU directives, in particular the Water Framework Directive, in the Ebro and Tagus river basins.

Sediment retention in the reservoirs along the Ebro river basin is estimated at 99 %. This lack of sediment management compromises both the useful life of the reservoirs and the sustainability of EU-protected areas. France, Germany and Switzerland carry out a far more sustainable sediment management, periodically draining reservoirs or regularly opening the undersluices of dams.

1. Will the Commission consider proposing a directive, or other type of regulation, on sediments, which would provide guidelines on proper sediment management in river basins to ensure the sustainability and safety of reservoirs, dams, deltas and river basins?
2. Could these guidelines provide for cases where the removal of dams is recommended once they become obsolete or their environmental, social and economic costs outweigh their benefits as they could be replaced by more sustainable forms of energy?