

**Question for written answer E-001684/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Suspension of 2014-2020 RDP funding granted under sub-measure 8.3 to Tuscany
Region: misuse contrary to aims

Under sub-measure 8.3 of the 2014-2020 rural development programme, Tuscany Region has financed a number of hydraulic works projects (dykes), which are manifestly not designed for forest conservation, that being the aim of the sub-measure, but suggest instead that EU funding is being used to build flood protection structures covered by the ordinary responsibilities of the regional authorities as such and of the reclamation consortia empowered to act for them, as is made clear in Regional Council Decision No 818 of 4 August 2015, which sets out guidelines for the implementation of sub-measure 8.3.

That the aim of forest conservation has not been taken into consideration, as the WWF's Tuscan regional organisation, WWF Toscana, has pointed out, in addition to the fact that the projects themselves are of poor quality and no environmental assessments have been carried out, is plain to see in the light of at least two projects for which EUR 1 250 000 has been granted in order to construct 19 dykes along the Crevole and Crevolicchio streams.

What steps will the Commission take with a view to calling for the suspension both of the contribution in question and of the implementation of the projected operations, while ascertaining that EU rural development funding is being used properly and eligible projects are of appropriate quality, as well as being consistent with the declared aims of RDP measures?