

**Question for written answer E-004402/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Closure of the river feeding the Marmore Falls, in violation of Directive 60/2000/EC

The Cascade delle Marmore (Marmore Falls) are a world-famous and internationally valued area of natural beauty.

However, for some time, the Municipality of Terni, by means of a succession of Council decisions and in agreement with the hydroelectric concession-holder, has been applying a so-called timetabled management system to the falls, without taking even the slightest account of the precise European and national rules on the quantitative and qualitative protection of watercourses, so that every day the falls are shut down (apart from leaks through the floodgates), and thus deprived of the 50-60 m³ per second which is the annual average flow of the Velino river, the entire volume being diverted for use by the hydroelectric power station.

The Marmore Falls are left open for only 1 281 hours each year, during which, moreover, the flow is reduced to 15 m³ per second.

For the rest of the time, the Falls are non-existent, particularly in the autumn and winter, causing not only environmental damage to the natural area, but also economic damage to commercial operations, tourism and the hotel trade in the area around the city of Terni.

1. Is the Commission aware of this situation?
2. Does the Commission regard as lawful Decision No 84 of 20 April 2016 by the Municipality of Terni and the enforced daily closure of the Marmore Falls, which is being justified as a way of 'improving the overall seasonal services available to tourists'?
3. What steps will the Commission take to check whether Directive 60/2000/EC and its successors have been infringed?