

**Question for written answer P-003733/2016
to the Commission**
Rule 130
Nessa Childers (S&D)

Subject: Water charges and Article 9 of the Water Framework Directive

Further to its response to Written Questions P-002540/2016 and P-008827/2014, could the Commission answer the following:

1. Does the introduction, by a Member State, of water charges for households with a view to implementing cost recovery and the 'polluter pays' principle, in the context of a River Basin Management Plan, necessarily mean, as a matter of legal compliance with the *acquis communautaire*, that a previously 'established practice' of funding without recourse to water charges for households has lapsed in such a way as to bind a Member State to comply with Article 9 of the Water Framework Directive through the specific requirement of cost recovery as a function of individual consumption?
2. Does the choice, by a Member State, of a particular scheme or method of cost recovery under Article 9 of the Water Framework Directive, as part of a River Basin Management Plan, in any way preclude that Member State from reverting to a prior established practice at a future date, or a future River Basin Management Plan, particularly if a Member State government's policy review entails the discontinuation of water charges based on individual consumption?
3. Does its answer to Written Question P-008827/2014 remain valid in its entirety, at present?