

**Question for written answer P-004580/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Bart Staes (Verts/ALE)

Subject: TEN-T: Conditions regarding environmental remediation measures

As part of the Seine-Scheldt TEN-T project, the Flemish government is due to upgrade the river Leie to take container transport in exchange for considerable EU funding. The MER study from 2009 insisted on remediation measures to mitigate and compensate for both the environmental damage resulting from calibration work already carried out and any additional damage.

These measures were sent to the Commission under the title of 'Rivierherstel Leie' (River Leie remediation measures). The most important measure is the restoration of 500 ha of natural environment in the river valley by around 2027.

However, Flanders is now proposing (since the end of 2014) to reduce the proposed 500 ha to 300 ha on the grounds of alleged impact on agriculture.

The remediation programme is being constantly postponed and no serious plans have yet been published. It seems that the aim is to further downgrade the programme for the river and implement only the bare minimum of measures.

1. Is the Commission aware of this delay in the Seine-Scheldt project?
2. Does the failure to carry out the measures required under the MER plan constitute a breach of the conditions for co-funding of TEN-T projects, whereby funding already granted or disbursed may be recalled or clawed back or new subsidies refused?
3. Will the Commission contact the Flemish government on this matter and urge that all conditions are complied with and all commitments honoured promptly?