

**Question for written answer E-010513/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**James Elles (ECR)**

Subject: UK High Speed 2 (HS2) rail link - Water Framework Directive

With reference to Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, can the Commission clarify the following points:

1. In determining its proposed route for HS2, has the UK Government complied with the requirements set out in Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive)?
2. In particular, the Water Framework Directive requires the UK Government to take all practicable steps to mitigate any adverse impact on the status of water bodies. Given the impact that Phase 1 of HS2 would have on the Misbourne, Colne and Chess rivers and the chalk aquifer in the Misbourne Valley, can the Commission review whether the UK Government has identified an overriding public interest for such works, as required under the Water Framework Directive?
3. Can the Commission review in detail the UK Government's compliance with the Water Framework Directive in connection with its decision to proceed with HS2?