

**Question for written answer E-007799/2013  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Sabine Wils (GUE/NGL)**

Subject: Deterioration ban in the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)

Implementing and attaining the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) is proving to be a challenge for all those involved, a challenge which will continue to persist for years.

Basically, there must be no deterioration in the quality of water. Article 4(1) of the WFD sets out targets based on the ultimate objective of the sustainable use of water resources. A deterioration in the condition of all Community waters, which includes surface waters as well as groundwater and coastal waters, must be prevented throughout the entire EU.

What criteria does the Commission apply when interpreting the deterioration ban in Articles 1 and 4 of the WFD?

What important decisions has the Commission adopted on this in the past and what relevant judgments have been passed by the ECJ?