

**Question for written answer E-014172/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

Raül Romeva i Rueda (Verts/ALE) and Dolores García-Hierro Caraballo (S&D)

Subject: Water management in the EU - pressure from dams

In November 2013, the groups Ecologistas en Acción, Aigua és Vida, Som lo que Sembrem, Grup de Defensa del Ter, Plataforma de Defensa del Ebro, Marea Azul del Sur, Red Agua Pública and Ingenieros sin Fronteras presented the document entitled 'Proposals for improved water management in the EU'.

According to the Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources, the main changes to water bodies are caused by the construction of dams and dykes of all kinds, given that dams are one of the existing infrastructures that have the greatest impact on the water environment and river ecosystems.

As a solution, the Blueprint proposes constructing fish passes and carrying out proper environmental impact assessments.

Does the Commission think that EU legislation should include provisions laying down that:

1. Before constructing a dam or other hydroelectric infrastructure, a report be drawn up justifying its viability in environmental, social, technical and economic terms and certifying that the project complies with the principle of cost recovery laid down by Article 9 of Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, as well as all the provisions of other EU directives, and that this report should be made public and revised every six years?
2. New hydroelectric power plants may not interfere with the natural flow of waterways, only allowing run-of-the-river plants (no dam), whereby the flow of the watercourse is partially diverted for electricity generation, and subsequently returned to the same watercourse downstream, provided that the environmental watercourse is kept in the natural watercourse?
3. In no more than five years, all hydroelectric dams that are not used for electricity generation or for other purposes be demolished?
4. In no more than 10 years, all hydroelectric dams be accordingly fitted with fish passes?