

**Question for written answer E-014175/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Water management in the EU - rational water use

In November 2013, the groups Ecologistas en Acción, Agua 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'.

The Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources proposes limiting the resources allocated to different human and production uses in those river basins that suffer or may suffer from water stress.

European legislation lays down no order of preference for uses of water, as provided for in the legislation of some Member States.

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

1. in order to achieve chemical balance, consumption may not exceed renewable resources available in river basins?
2. in order to access available water resources, once environmental flows have been discounted, an order of preference for water uses be drawn up:
 - a) public supply,
 - b) service sector and small industry,
 - c) irrigation, agriculture and industrial use,
 - d) aquaculture,
 - e) hydropower generation,
 - f) recreational uses,
 - g) navigation and water transport,
 - h) other uses

and this order may be amended by Member States in line with the specific features of each Member State, with suitable justification, except in the case of uses a) and b), which should always remain in those positions?