

**Question for written answer E-014176/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Water management in the EU - vulnerability of water

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'.

The Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources mentions the effects of climate change, focusing on droughts and floods, and states that the actions proposed may be could be considered insufficient to reduce the negative consequences of both effects.

As a result of the effects of climate change, available water resources are falling significantly and consumption by planted crops is increasing (because of the rise in temperatures).

Droughts are recurrent phenomena in southern Europe, so it is better to adapt to them and to take steps to minimise their effects.

In view of the increase in flooding, efforts should focus on leaving channels and areas with a direct impact on them free of construction of any kind.

Riverbank woodland used to mitigate the effects of floods, since it reduces the speed of the water and encourages the water to drain into the soil.

Does the Commission believe that EU legislation should include provisions requiring that:

1. Member States calculate the average contributions to the channels under natural conditions in relation to all their water catchment areas, taking into account the values for recent years so that, in the event that significant drops are identified, water allocations for different uses may be recalculated?
2. waste water always be re-used for irrigation and industry, irrespective of whether or not a drought situation exists?
3. Member States draw up and adopt drought plans for each of the water catchment areas to determine the distribution of resources at all times, and the various measures that should be taken to minimise their effects, guaranteeing the conservation of water ecosystems?
4. as a flood prevention measure, channels and areas with an impact on them be left free of construction of any kind?
5. once these structures are removed, environmental restoration of these areas be undertaken, with native vegetation and riverbank trees?
6. Member States demarcate all flood-risk areas, using a recurrence interval of at least 500 years?