

**Question for written answer E-014180/2013
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Water management in the EU - agricultural pressure

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 expressly mentions 'pressure from agriculture and flood protection', indicating that this can be mitigated by 'developing buffer strips, which provide biological continuity between rivers and their banks and using, whenever possible, green infrastructure'.

1. Does the Commission think that EU law should include provisions for increasing, provided that this is technically possible, the width of flows, getting as close as possible to the natural flood plain, and for these areas to be replanted with riverbank native trees, and for the natural conditions of the banks and the edges of the rivers to be respected at all times, retaining their ecological, social and landscape value, and encouraging the refilling of the riverbeds and other aquifers connected to them?
2. Does it think that significant budget headings ought to be provided at EU level for the greening of concrete channels and breakwaters and other existing grey infrastructure, without losing sight of the protective function provided by that infrastructure?