

**Question for written answer E-002125/2014  
to the Commission  
Rule 117  
Catherine Grèze (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: EAFRD funding for the Sivens reservoir

On the subject of the Sivens reservoir, and in the light of the answer that you gave on 12 February, I would like to know if the European Commission has received a response from the French authorities. In addition, I would like to draw your attention to another aspect of the project that is posing problems.

The Rural Development Programme for Metropolitan France (PDRH) is co-financed by the EAFRD, and measure 125B1 of this programme, entitled 'Soutien aux investissements collectifs d'hydraulique agricole' [Supplementing public investments made in agricultural hydraulics projects], has been invoked for this project. Under this measure, the maximum level of State aid (TMAP) is dependent on whether or not the irrigated land area increases. If it doesn't, then the TMAP is set at 80 %, and if it does, it is set at 50 %.

As things currently stand, the file submitted by the CACG (the Gascogne-based coastal development corporation in charge of the project) has made provision for 80 % of the project to be publicly funded (50 % from the local water authority and 30 % from the EAFRD). It should be pointed out that the remaining 20 %, which is being funded by the contracting authority, is not regarded as State aid, even though it is a regional public authority.

However, the creation of the Sivens reservoir will actually lead to an increase in the irrigated land area, and in irrigation in general. In the public inquiry file, there is a table that clearly shows that the irrigated land area is expected to increase following the construction of the Sivens dam, rising from 409 hectares to 509 hectares.

Does the Commission intend to withhold this EAFRD funding as a result of the regulations in force being breached?