

**Question for written answer E-009341/2016  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Birgit Collin-Langen (PPE)**

Subject: The Water Framework Directive and mills

The application of the Water Framework Directive and the restoration of streams and rivers resulting from this may lead to problems in artificial waterways in historical parks, in fishing waters of historical importance for the cultural landscape, and in rafting wharfs.

It is also difficult to bring watermill weirs into line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This results in more and more watermill operators deciding to give up their businesses. Watermills have been a part of the traditional landscape of Germany and other Member States for hundreds of years. These historical transverse structures are an integral part of our cultural heritage.

In the Commission's opinion, what possibilities are there for preserving these monuments, and to what extent can their preservation be reconciled with the aims of the Water Framework Directive?

Is it possible to exert greater influence so that when implementing and applying the Water Framework Directive an allowance is made for watermills?