

**Question for written answer E-000719/2018
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Sediment bypass in the Ebro Basin - compliance with the Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive, the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive

The continuous depositing of sediment would help to counteract the collapse and retreat, and contribute to the sustainability of the Ebro Delta. The operation of dams must be based on the precautionary principle and contribute to the achievement of the environmental objectives of the existing directives, inter alia by respecting the hydromorphological processes of water bodies and sediment in general. With regard to the Delta, one of the reservoirs where action is needed is the Riba-Roja, which retains around two million tonnes of sediment a year.

The programmes of measures (PoMs) include measures – some exceptional – that could be used to correct changes caused by dams and reservoirs.

In his answer to question E-001491/17, Commissioner Vella said: 'The Commission does not have studies regarding sediment management and the operation of the mentioned reservoirs in Spain at its disposal.'

Would the Commission recommend, in order to ensure compliance with the aforementioned directives, that a study be carried out into establishing a sediment bypass system in the Riba-Roja de Ebro reservoir as a PoM in the hydrological plans for the Ebro River Basin in order to avoid uncertainty in the Ebro Basin and the retreat and collapse of the Ebro Delta?