

**Question for written answer E-000744/2018  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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**Subject:** Safety in the Ebro Delta and Spanish dams- compliance with the Water Framework, Floods, Birds and Habitats Directives, and the Aarhus Convention

The condition of the dams in the Ebro river basin directly impacts the safety of communities downstream of the dams as well as the amount of sediment that ends up in the Ebro Delta. When the contracts were awarded for the Mequinenza, Ribarroja and Flix dams, environmental impact studies were not required and sediment retention was not a concern. But safety regulations did require that the dams' mechanisms be well maintained.

Taking into account the Water Framework, Floods, Birds and Habitats Directives, as well as the Aarhus Convention;

1. Does the Commission consider it relevant to review the protocols for the management and operation of these dams, particularly in the area of safety, in compliance with the existing regulations and new environmental implications (increasing dynamic subsidence and regression of the Ebro Delta, causes and effects of climate change)?
2. Does the Commission consider it necessary to conduct sediment studies and encourage a management approach that minimizes sediment retention in reservoirs?
3. Would the Commission recommend that an inspection be carried out on mechanisms at the Mequinenza, Ribarroja and Flix dams, paying particular attention to the spillway, to ensure that none of the mechanisms are in bad condition and could constitute a breach of the directives?