

**Question for written answer E-000202/2019  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Sophie Montel (NI)**

Subject: Privatisation of hydroelectric dams

On 21 November 2018, the Commission instructed France to draw up a precise timeframe for the issuing of invitations to tender for hydroelectric concessions, which are currently held by *Electricité de France* (EDF). The Commission's demand comes after Brussels issued a letter of formal notice to France in 2015. All its hydroelectric dams are state-owned, and long-term concessions were historically granted to EDF (with some lasting up to 75 years). As many concessions have ended or are about to end, several issues have come to light: aside from the fate of employees in the sector, EDF may seek financial compensation, which will doubtless place an additional burden on France's budget as efforts are made to comply with the EU's peremptory admonitions.

Does the Commission not think that hydroelectric dams should be treated as a public water utility and accordingly shielded from competitive tendering?