

**Question for written answer E-000526/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Ivan Vilibor Sinčić (NI)**

**Subject:** Unsustainability and dubious benefits of constructing mini-hydro power plants in South-Eastern Europe

The construction of mini-hydro power plants is being promoted as a sustainable and renewable energy source, and states are even providing incentives to producers to build them. However, mini-hydro power plants often destroy the entire watercourse of mountain rivers and deprive local residents of the human right to drinking water and life, while the construction primarily benefits privileged individuals. At the same time, the cumulative share of all mini-hydro power plants represents just a few percent of their host country's total electricity production.

The construction of mini-hydro power plants has provoked opposition among local residents in Croatia and large-scale resistance throughout South-Eastern Europe, particularly in Serbia<sup>1</sup>, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro<sup>2</sup>.

In light of the foregoing:

1. Does the Commission consider mini-hydro power plants to be sustainable?
2. Does the Commission consider mini-hydro power plants to be a renewable energy source?
3. Does the Commission intend to encourage the construction of mini-hydro power plants in South-Eastern Europe?

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://novastaraplanina.com/en/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.slobodnaevropa.org/a/mhe-i-dalje-predmet-konflikta-u-crnoj-gori-/30769905.html>