Question for written answer E-004931/2021

to the Commission

Rule 138

Sven Giegold (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Consequences of the catastrophic flooding in Germany, Belgium and France

Because of climate change, extreme weather events are becoming more and more frequent and more and more severe. During the catastrophic flooding in western Germany, Belgium and France this summer, more than 240 people died and thousands of livelihoods were destroyed. EU law requires risks from flooding to be lessened. Nature conservation plays a crucial role here, given that rivers in a semi-natural state where nature is unspoilt and there is plenty of space for water to flow cause less damage. However, Germany and in particular the state of North Rhine-Westphalia, which was hit by the disastrous flooding, are failing to act on the requirements.

1. In the light of the floods in Europe and the latest IPCC report on climate change, how will the Commission ensure that flood risk assessments for all rivers are adapted to climate change?

2. To date, North Rhine-Westphalia has not defined all flood plains[[1]](#footnote-0) as such in law. In many areas of particular relevance, land use is not sufficiently restricted. How does the Commission view these serious shortcomings?

3. The EU Water Framework Directive[[2]](#footnote-1) also requires renaturation for flood protection purposes. According to the draft third management plan for North Rhine-Westphalia[[3]](#footnote-2), the status of one third of all surface water bodies will still not be good by 2027. Implementation of the Water Framework Directive is being deferred until mid-century. How will the Commission ensure that the Water Framework Directive is correctly acted on in all management plans?

1. Under the EU Flood Risk Management Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC) [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. Directive 2000/60/EC [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. https://www.flussgebiete.nrw.de/system/files/atoms/files/bewirtschaftungsplan\_nrw\_kurzfassung\_entwurf.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-2)