

**Question for written answer E-003186/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Preserving French and European hydraulic structures

The Commission is considering a nature restoration directive on water and river management. We note that in this text it places hydraulic structures in opposition to nature.

Restoring these ecosystems should not mean destroying the heritage and uses of rivers. The destruction of hydraulic structures to restore 'free-flow' rivers poses many problems, such as the drying up of water reserves, the destruction of potential low-carbon hydroelectric structures, and the destruction of anthropic ecosystems that in many cases were installed centuries ago. We should bear in mind that hydraulic structures are part of the landscape of our rivers.

To avoid the feared negative effects on the territories, the Commission should defend several points, such as the recognition of anthropic and cultural ecosystems, and establish a European plan to protect them. There is an urgent need to combine, not oppose, solutions based on nature and technology, in order to ensure that water is managed as a resource, at a time when Europe is experiencing very high temperatures.

1. What does the Commission intend to do to ensure that the interactions between nature and these structures continue?
2. Does the Commission plan to support Member States in restoring this cultural heritage?