

**Question for written answer E-003701/2023  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Sirpa Pietikäinen (PPE)**

**Subject:** Stream rehabilitation obligation under the Water Framework Directive

The objective of the Water Framework Directive is to achieve good ecological status. In the forested areas of Finland, small streams have been cleared and then they have been construed as ditches, in which case the Water Framework Directive would not apply to them. In actual fact, however, these are still streams, in poor shape as a result of being cleared, and the Water Framework Directive and nature restoration law should be applied to them. The Government, however, has not remedied the issue, and the ecological status of these cleared streams has therefore not been improved in line with the Water Framework Directive.

1. What measures does the Commission intend to take to ensure that Finland restores the cleared streams and complies with the Water Framework Directive?
2. How will it ensure that the nature restoration law will also apply to these cleared streams?

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