

**Question for written answer E-003719/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
César Luena (S&D)

Subject: Revision of the Water Framework Directive and complaint to the European Ombudsman

On 8 September 2026, five organisations lodged a complaint with the European Ombudsman questioning the procedure the Commission followed to revise the Water Framework Directive. They point out that the decision to revise the directive was announced in December 2025, under RESourceEU, in order to, among other things, improve access to critical raw materials. The announcement came before a targeted evaluation or public consultation were carried out. They also recall that the 2019 fitness check concluded that the directive was fit for purpose.

1. What specific evidence and analysis formed the basis for the announcement that the directive would be revised? What evidence does the Commission have that the directive's provisions are hampering the development of critical raw material projects?
2. What are the Commission's reasons for taking the political decision to revise the directive before completing an evaluation or consulting stakeholders?
3. Can the Commission guarantee that any future proposal will fully maintain the current objectives and levels of water protection set by the directive?

Submitted: 16.9.2026