

**Question for written answer E-003823/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sander Smit (ECR)

Subject: Public consultation on the Dutch restoration plan before and after submission

The Netherlands submitted its draft restoration plan on 25 August 2026 via Reportnet; the submission is restricted, whilst Sweden's submission was made public¹. In its answer to written question E-001684/2026², the Commission confirmed that its comments under Article 17 would be made public and emphasised transparent preparation and public consultation. A six-week public consultation on a public version of the draft has been announced for October; the plan's environmental impact assessment will follow in the autumn. A previous formal public consultation concerned the methodology of the environmental impact assessment.

1. On what grounds is the Dutch submission restricted, and will the Commission, or the EEA as the relevant authority, make the submitted draft, together with its annexes and amended versions, available to the public upon request pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1049/2001 and Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006, having regard to Article 6(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1367/2006?
2. What type of public participation and justification are required under Article 14(20) and Article 15(3)(w) prior to submission?
3. In accordance with Article 17, what consequences does the Commission attach to the absence of information on public participation or to discrepancies between the version submitted and the version made available for inspection, and what additional consultation or renewed public participation is required prior to the adoption of the final plan?

Submitted: 23.9.2026

¹ Reportnet 3, dataflow/1906, 'Draft National Restoration Plans – 2026', accessed on 18 September 2026: Netherlands, submitted on 25 August 2026 at 17.17.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-10-2026-001684-ASW_EN.html.