

**Question for written answer E-004056/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Clearing and maintenance of watercourses and waterworks: let's clarify and simplify the rules!

Europeans are facing increasingly frequent droughts, but also intense rainfall causing runoff and overflows. Given this situation, the preservation of existing water storage and drainage capacities has become a major issue for our agricultural resilience.

However, complex and lengthy administrative procedures often have to be navigated when it comes to maintaining existing ditches, watercourses and waterworks, including the removal of sediment, excess vegetation and logjams. These constraints can delay the works needed to maintain the water cycle.

In 2025, the Commission adopted the European water resilience strategy, which, among other things, seeks to strengthen the EU's resilience against both droughts and floods.

In view of this:

1. Does the Commission intend to propose to the Member States a simplified and harmonised framework for the maintenance of existing ditches, watercourses and waterworks, where the maintenance measures do not alter their route or characteristics?
2. What steps will it take to prevent EU rules from delaying these actions?
3. Does it plan to lay down clear European guidelines to distinguish between maintenance measures and works requiring authorisation?

Supporter¹

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