

EN
E-002552/2024
Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(12.2.2025)

On 7 February 2024 the Commission decided to refer several Member States¹ to the Court of Justice of the European Union for failure to finalise the revision of their river basin management plans, as required under the Water Framework Directive² and/or of their flood risk management plans as required under the Floods Directive³.

As far as Spain is concerned, the failure concerns both Directives and is limited to the river basin districts of ES122 Fuerteventura, ES123 Lanzarote and ES125 La Palma in the Canary Islands. Therefore, the river basin district mostly affected by the recent tragic floods (ES080 Júcar) is not included in the scope of the case.

The Court application was lodged on 3 May 2024 (Ref. C-331/24⁴) and the written procedure before the Court has been finalised.

The Commission assesses periodically the whole flood risk management cycle of all Member States and issues recommendations. The next such assessment will be published⁵ in the coming months. The Commission has established working groups, such as the Working Group on Floods⁶ and the Disaster Prevention Expert Group⁷, where it cooperates with the Member States and stakeholders to further policy implementation, including the exchange of good practice, advances on research and policy support tools such as the Flood Risk Areas Viewer⁸, Copernicus' European Flood Awareness System⁹ and the Risk Data Hub¹⁰. These tools support implementation but do not replace the necessary action at national, regional or local levels.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_265

² Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1–73.

³ Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood risks, OJ L 288, 6.11.2007, p. 27–34.

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A62024CN0331>

⁵ Publication of 7th Implementation Report,

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive/implementation-reports_en

⁶ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9ab5926d-bed4-4322-9aa7-9964bbe8312d/library/9560db96-04c6-4377-bf82-84766955e54a?fromLink=true>

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupId=3733&fromMeetings=true&meetingId=26197>

⁸ <https://discomap.eea.europa.eu/floodsvviewer/>

⁹ <https://www.copernicus.eu/en/european-flood-awareness-system>

¹⁰ https://emergency.copernicus.eu/mapping/sites/default/files/files/Day2_12_DRMKC_overview.pdf