

(English version)

Question for written answer E-001237/25
to the Commission
Stefano Cavedagna (ECR)
(25 March 2025)

Subject: Managing climate emergencies and supporting people affected by floods in Emilia-Romagna

The Emilia-Romagna Region's 2013 Flood Risk Management Plan already reported a number of problems, including fragile banks and excessive vegetation in embanked lowland watercourses.

Article 10 of Directive 2007/60/EC requires the public to be informed of the risk of flooding, and Italian Legislative Decree 2010 No 49 — which transposes the aforementioned Directive in Italy — assigns the management of the alert system to the regions. The Emilia-Romagna Region does not seem to have acted on this ahead of the floods of May 2023 and September 2024, thus preventing effective preventive measures from being taken.

Satellite images from April 2023 show the region's rivers in a state of severe neglect, lacking maintenance and at high risk of flooding.

In the light of the above:

1. Could the Commission check whether the Emilia-Romagna Region has complied with Directive 2007/60/EC, particularly in managing flood risk on the Lamone river and on the rivers Idice, Sillaro, Ravone, Ronco, Bidente, Savio, Santerno, Senio, Savena, Marecchia and Montone?
2. Could the Commission request clarification on the failure to maintain rivers and the alleged failure to inform and involve the public, by ensuring transparency on the steps taken?
3. Could the Commission call for urgent action, such as the removal of vegetation in problematic stretches of rivers, the strengthening of banks, and the continuous monitoring and remediation of porcupine and coypu burrows to prevent future floods?

Submitted: 25.3.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(17 June 2025)

The Commission published its assessment of the implementation of the Floods Directive ⁽¹⁾ on 4 February 2025 including a specific assessment of the second Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) ⁽²⁾ for Italy also addressing the revised Flood Risk Management Plan for the Po River Basin ⁽³⁾.

The overall assessment shows notable improvements in flood risk management, better alignment of objectives and measures, and consideration of challenges posed by climate change.

The assessment also acknowledges that Member States need to expand their planning and administrative capacity, and adequately invest in flood prevention and makes a number of recommendations in this respect ⁽⁴⁾.

Article 10 of the Flood Directive requires Member States to make available to the public the preliminary flood risk assessment, the flood hazard maps, the flood risk maps and the flood risk management plans and encourage active involvement of interested parties in the production, review and updating of the plans.

In line with the provision of the directive, this information is available for the Po River Basin. The public consultation for the Po Flood Risk Management Plan, started in December 2020 and lasted six months.

The relevant competent authorities in Member States are responsible for the identification and implementation of effective measures to reduce the risk of floods.

After the assessment of the second FRMPs covering the period 2021–2027, the Commission concluded *inter alia* that Italy's FRMPs' objectives should be measurable and where possible linked to quantitative indicators and be timebound.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2007/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2007 on the assessment and management of flood, OJ L 288, 6.11.2007, p. 27–34.

⁽²⁾ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/topics/water/water-framework-directive/implementation-reports_en.

⁽³⁾ <https://pianoalluvioni.adbpo.it/piano-gestione-rischio-alluvioni-2021/>.

⁽⁴⁾ Commission Staff Working Document: Third River Basin Management Plans, Second Flood Hazard and Risk Maps and Second Flood Risk Management Plans — Member State: Italy — Accompanying the document Report from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and the Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) — Third River Basin Management Plans — Second Flood Risk Management Plans, SWD/2025/18 final.

Future Plans should also include an assessment of the progress made towards the achievement of the previous objectives.
