

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000871/26
to the Commission**

Danilo Della Valle (The Left), Valentina Palmisano (The Left), Pasquale Tridico (The Left), Mario Furore (The Left)
(3 March 2026)

Subject: Outdated environmental impact assessment and potential repercussions for the Campolattaro reservoir's water resources

REC S.r.l.'s plan to build a hydroelectric plant in Campania's Benevento Province is based on an environmental impact assessment (EIA) that was carried out in 2015. The establishment of the Matese National Park in April 2025 and the launching of a major NRRP-funded project that will use the Campolattaro reservoir as a source of drinking water have drastically changed the way in which the local environment is being managed and protected, rendering the EIA obsolete. The REC S.r.l. facility is set to have an impact on the park's Zone 1 areas (which are afforded the highest level of protection) and to draw water from the Campolattaro reservoir.

According to expert reports, the planned hydroelectric plant could drain the local karst aquifers and deplete the sources that provide drinking water to around 18 000 local residents. These and other major shortcomings could constitute breaches of Directives 2011/92/EU, 2000/60/EC and 92/43/EEC — which regulate EIAs, water and habitats respectively.

In view of the above:

1. Does the Commission hold that using an outdated EIA is in line with Directive 2011/92/EU, particularly given that a national park has since been established in the area and that the project concerned clashes with a new NRRP project?
2. How does the Commission view the hydroelectric plant's potential adverse repercussions for Campolattaro's bodies of water and drinking water sources in relation to the objectives set out by Directive 2000/60/EC?
3. What action will the Commission take to ensure that the REC S.r.l. plant does not compromise the NextGenerationEU-funded project's effectiveness and compliance with the DNSH principle?

Submitted: 3.3.2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(8 May 2026)

The Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIAD) ⁽¹⁾ requires the competent authority to be satisfied that the reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of a project is up to date when taking a decision to grant development consent.

If the state of the environment has changed between that conclusion and the time a consent is granted, the assessment may need to be updated. Hence, new information on significant environmental effects of the project must be considered during the development consent procedure.

Regarding changes in environmental characteristics after development consent has been granted, the EIAD does not set a specific timeline for the implementation of the project.

As outlined in the Water Resilience Strategy ⁽²⁾, Member States must identify the most appropriate options to ensure water supply, based on an integrated strategy that balances demand and supply while considering climate impacts.

They must also meet the objectives set out in the Water Framework Directive ⁽³⁾ (WFD). If the hydropower project in question is expected to lead to negative impacts, including on the Campolattaro reservoir ⁽⁴⁾, it can only be authorised if justified according to the criteria set out in the WFD ⁽⁵⁾.

Regarding NextGenerationEU ⁽⁶⁾ funding, the Commission's monitoring of the implementation of the Italian national recovery and resilience plan (RRP) is based on the requirements outlined in the annex to the Council Implementing Decision (CID) on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Italy ⁽⁷⁾.

⁽¹⁾ Article 8a(6) of Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification), OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, as amended.

⁽²⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

⁽³⁾ 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.

⁽⁴⁾ The Campolattaro reservoir (water body ITF015LWLAGODICAMPOLATTARO) is reported under the Water Framework Directive as in unknown ecological potential in Italy's third river basin management plan for the river basin 'Appennino Meridionale', with pressures due to urban wastewater, diffuse agricultural pollution, as well as damming and abstraction for agriculture, public water supply and industry.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 4(7) thereof, including all practicable mitigation measures.

⁽⁶⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/eu-borrower-investor-relations/nextgenerationeu_en.

⁽⁷⁾ ST 15106/25 + ADD 1 COR1- Annex to the Council Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision of 13 July 2021 on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Italy.

Accordingly, the Commission assesses the specific characteristics of a given intervention in the context of the assessment of the milestone or target pertaining such intervention only where explicitly required by the CID Annex.
