

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001888/26
to the Commission
Gaetano Pedulla' (The Left)
(7 May 2026)**

Subject: The NRRP-funded Genoa dam project's major technical shortcomings and untransparent management

Funded to the tune of ca. EUR 1.5 billion (including NRRP resources), Genoa's new dam project has critical vulnerabilities. It recently transpired ⁽¹⁾ that tests to determine the foundation's structural stability could not be completed at a depth of 50 metres because the water pressure had destroyed the piezometers involved. Though project staff have been unable to confirm whether the seabed under the gravel blanket can indeed support the dam, the Extraordinary Commissioner has decided to accept this risk and says that construction will go ahead and be based on real-world data instead of preventive testing. Such an approach could be at odds with the 'Do No Significant Harm' (DNSH) principle and the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2021/241. The project could also be in breach of Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information because management have so far refused to disclose any monitoring data, citing the need to avoid any 'premature conclusions'.

I therefore ask the Commission:

1. Does it hold that allowing the Genoa dam project to proceed despite the lack of valid test results at a depth of 50 metres is an approach that is in keeping with the Recovery and Resilience Facility's strict technical safety standards?
2. What measures will it take to check whether the risk accepted by the project's commission could indeed violate the DNSH principle by compromising the dam's long-term stability and harming the local environment?
3. Does it consider the secrecy surrounding the project's technical monitoring data to be compatible with the transparency and reporting requirements laid down by EU law?

Submitted: 7.5.2026

**Answer given by Mr Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(23 July 2026)**

The Commission would like to highlight that the Genoa dam project has been financed by complementary national resources under the National Complementary Fund and is not part as such of the approved National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) under Regulation (EU) 2021/241 ⁽¹⁾.

The Do-Not-Significant-Harm principle, as well as technical safety and reporting standards of the Recovery and Resilience Facility, are applicable to the implementation of, *inter alia*, projects financed under the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), while it does not apply to projects funded through any national resources, including the National Complementary Fund.

Under Article 3(1) of Directive 2003/4/EC ⁽²⁾ 'Member States shall ensure that public authorities are required, in accordance with the provisions of this directive, to make available environmental information held by or for them to any applicant at his request and without his having to state an interest'.

Member States may provide for a request for environmental information to be refused under the exceptions regime laid down in Article 4 of the same Directive.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States are primarily responsible for ensuring that specific financed projects comply with EU and national law.

¹ https://www.genova24.it/2026/05/nuova-diga-test-bucci-dati-campi-prova-462322/?fbclid=IwZnRzaARnI9dleHRuA2FlbQlXMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEeM0SeRqq0y9bgxxDs1Kdn_Vjv-gM2o8BoTYt0j04Lrp1waQYXvLBKKI_e-I_aem_Ef2lvsRqbD9w430uk5ir_Q.

⁽¹⁾ Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility, OJ L 57, 18.2.2021, pp. 17-75.

⁽²⁾ Directive 2003/4/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 January 2003 on public access to environmental information and repealing Council Directive 90/313/EEC OJ L 41, 14.2.2003, pp. 26-32.