

**Question for written answer E-002416/2024/rev.1
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Harm done by PP and PSOE governments' handling of the natural disaster in Valencia caused by a slow-moving storm with heavy rainfall

On 29 October 2024 in Valencia, a slow-moving storm with heavy rainfall (known as a 'DANA' in Spanish) caused an unprecedented natural disaster, with untold human – more than 200 dead and hundreds missing in the first few days following the disaster – and material losses.

The Nature Restoration Act set the objective of restoring at least 25 000 km of rivers in the EU to a free-flowing state by 2030, which has led to the uncontrolled destruction of a great deal of water infrastructure in Spain. Removing barriers reduces the capacity of rivers to keep floods in check, increasing the risk to local populations and destroying stable ecosystems.

Given the law's harmful consequences:

1. When will the Commission submit a proposal for its total or partial repeal?
2. In the wake of the public's rejection of Carlos Mazón and Pedro Sánchez in disgust at their ideologically driven policies and inaction over this humanitarian crisis, will the Commission condemn the PP and PSOE regional and central governments' mishandling of the disaster?
3. What steps will the Commission take to prevent flooding caused by the uncontrolled removal of water infrastructure in the Member States?

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