

**Question for written answer E-015622/2015
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Ricardo Serrão Santos (S&D) and Ulrike Rodust (S&D)

Subject: Concern about the increasing number of small hydropower plants in EU rivers

European anglers are very much concerned about the increasing number of small hydropower plants in EU rivers, which cause well-known and well-documented negative effects on the ecosystems. In particular, dams create barriers that make migration for reproduction purposes impossible for important endangered species such as salmon, sea trout and eel.

1. What does the Commission think of the fact that this energy is sometimes promoted as a source with little or no environmental impact and even subsidised with public money as such by the Member States?
2. The Commission is working on a guidance document on hydropower development at Natura 2000 sites. Considering the severe negative effects that hydropower has on the rivers' ecosystems, why does the Commission not consider the construction of dams in protected areas to be contradictory?