

**Question for written answer E-006873/2020  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Technical criteria for taxonomy risks counteracting the purpose of the regulations

We welcome the work of the EU to strengthen the regulations for sustainable investments and the Taxonomy Regulation that has been adopted. Sustainable investments will be a prerequisite if Europe is to achieve the objectives of the European Green Deal and the switch to climate neutrality.

We believe there is a risk that the technical criteria that the European Commission included in its draft delegated act that the European Commission has now distributed for public consultation will

disproportionately hinder investments in renewable electricity production in particular. Particularly as regards hydro power, bioenergy and biofuels, we are concerned that excessively far-reaching adaptation measures will prevent, rather than promote, future investments and reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. It would be deeply unfortunate, harm green investments that have already been made, and neither fulfil the purpose of the taxonomy nor be reasonable from a legislative perspective.

What impact on long-term investments in the hydro power sector does the Commission expect the criteria to entail, when hydro power owners and others will need to prove why every single new technology may not be technically feasible to implement or ecologically relevant, and if the protection is as close as possible to how the watercourse's ecology would have been in its untouched state?

How does the Commission justify the fact that the parts that concern bioenergy and biofuel are classified as transition technologies, when the production respects the strict sustainability criteria that already exist under the EU's Renewable Energy Directive and are therefore sustainable according to EU law?