

**Question for written answer E-003193/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Tsvetelina Penkova (S&D)

Subject: Need for a common EU approach to sustainability and a joint response in the face of critical water stress

The entrenching of the water crisis in the European Union in 2025 has shown the need for a comprehensive, structured and long-term sustainable water management policy. Data from the Member States reveal some worrying trends: outdated infrastructure, inefficient distribution, drinking water losses of over 60 % in Bulgaria, critically low levels of rivers and dams, disruptions to the water supply in industry, transport and healthcare, and growing social tensions. In Bulgaria, more than 150 000 people are already under a water regime. National measures (such as investments in desalinisation, recycling, digital management) are a step forward, but are disjointed and unequal. At the same time, there is no EU-wide standard for a minimum water reserve, for the rehabilitation and digitalisation of water networks, or for a solidarity mechanism in the event of a water crisis. In this context:

What concrete actions and mechanisms is the Commission planning to support Member States in constructing and rehabilitating modern and sustainable water and waste water infrastructure, limiting water losses, introducing uniform standards for water reserves and the planning and establishing of a European crisis response mechanism for ‘dry periods’ to ensure the security of water supply in the EU? This issue is particularly relevant in the context of the ongoing discussions on the new Multiannual Financial Framework, in which, as a Member State, we are insisting that such a mechanism be incorporated into future EU regulations and financial instruments.

Supporter¹

Submitted: 6.8.2025

¹ This question is supported by a Member other than the author: Kristian Vigenin (S&D)