

**Question for written answer E-003833/2025
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Jadwiga Wiśniewska (ECR)

Subject: Conflict between the Critical Raw Materials Regulation and the Water Directive

The Groundwater Protection Directive (2006/118/EC) imposes an obligation to prevent excessive pollution levels in groundwater. Annex X to the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) lists substances resulting from the exploitation of rare earths, such as arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury, whose presence in water the Member States are required to limit.

The extraction of critical raw materials (wolfram, copper) is associated with environmental pollution, especially in deep water, groundwater and surface waters.

The Critical Raw Materials Regulation (EU) 2024/1252 accelerates the exploration and extraction of strategic resources in the EU, leading to conflicts with the Water Framework Directive and EU water protection legislation.

In parts of Śląskie Province there will be a risk of water pollution, as tungsten, molybdenum and copper deposits are located within the Main Groundwater Reservoir 327, which supplies water to people living in the region. The area is home to over 1.1 million inhabitants.

1. In view of the clear conflict between the provisions of the Critical Raw Materials Regulation and the Water Directive, will the provisions of the Regulation be suspended if both resources are present on the same site?
2. In view of the 2022 European Parliament resolution and the 2010 UN resolution establishing access to water as a human right, and given that Poland is a country which is vulnerable to hydrogeological drought, will the provisions of the regulation, the application of which will affect water resources and hinder residents' access to water, not be applied?

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