

Question for written answer E-004875/2025

to the Commission

Rule 144

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Subject: Inadequate collection and assessment of data and possible conflict with legal provisions laid down in the EU Water Framework Directive (in particular Articles 4, 8 and 11, and Recital 28)

Very high concentrations of mercury have been found in fish and shellfish in the Limfjord – 5 to 12 times higher than the limits set in the EU Water Framework Directive. The tests featured in *Giften i sandet* ('Poison in the Sand'), a Danish TV 2 documentary series focusing on the activities of chemical company Cheminova in the Thyborøn-Harboøre area since the 1940s and the effects of the toxic waste dumped there.

Given the excessively high mercury levels and the acknowledged lack of action on the part of the authorities, questions have been raised as to whether – in the light of the recent court ruling concerning Ireland (CJEU judgment 62024CJ0204) – the Danish authorities are in breach of EU law by no longer complying with the requirements laid down in the EU Water Framework Directive. The ruling confirms that, under the EU Water Framework Directive, Member States are obliged to take practical steps to achieve and maintain good chemical status in the aquatic environment.

Given that very high concentrations of mercury that exceed the EU limits have been detected in the Limfjord, please answer the following two questions:

1. Has Denmark met its obligations under the Water Framework Directive by taking the necessary clean-up action and drawing up a plan with possible follow-up to ensure that 'good chemical status' is achieved in the Limfjord?
2. Has Denmark carried out adequate water quality monitoring in the area to ensure that the relevant environmental status data have been collected and used in accordance with the requirements laid down in the directive?

Submitted: 10.12.2025