

**Question for written answer E-000582/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)

Subject: Barriers to the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2020/741 on the reuse of treated urban wastewater for irrigation in water-scarce areas

Climate change and increasing water stress in Mediterranean countries are making it necessary to exploit alternative and sustainable water sources for agriculture. In this context, Regulation (EU) 2020/741 was adopted with the aim of ensuring the safe reuse of treated urban wastewater for irrigation purposes. However, in some Member States, such as Greece, the practical implementation of the Regulation remains limited, especially in water-scarce areas with a high dependence of agricultural production on irrigation and intense pressure on groundwater aquifers, despite the existence of operational biological treatment plants. The main inhibiting factors relate to institutional, administrative, technical and financial barriers, as well as issues of social acceptance.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the fact that, despite the entry into force of Regulation (EU) 2020/741, the reuse of treated urban wastewater for irrigation remains limited in some Member States due to implementation and institutional obstacles?
2. Does the Commission consider that accelerating and simplifying the implementation of the Regulation, while fully safeguarding public health, environmental protection and social acceptance, is a crucial tool for achieving the objectives of Directive 2000/60/EC and the European policy on adaptation to climate change?
3. Does the Commission intend to issue additional guidelines and strengthen targeted funding for treated wastewater reuse projects through the common agricultural policy, the Recovery Fund or other European financial instruments, while supporting pilot applications in areas of high water stress?

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