

**Question for written answer E-000969/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Sakis Arnaoutoglou (S&D)**

**Subject:** New inter-state agreement between Greece and Bulgaria on the waters of the Arda River and compliance with EU law

The Arda River is a critical cross-border water resource for agricultural production in Evros. The Greek-Bulgarian water supply agreement, which was signed 60 years ago in 1964, expired in July 2024, without being replaced by a new binding inter-state agreement. Instead, in May 2025, an unpublished five-year ‘joint statement’ was presented by the foreign ministers of the two countries, without any known quantitative terms, compliance mechanisms or parliamentary ratification.

This development has led to a situation of prolonged uncertainty for farmers in Evros as regards the availability of irrigation water. This directly affects the viability of the local rural economy and the management of a cross-border river basin within the EU.

In view of the above, can the Commission answer the following:

1. Is there an obligation under EU law for an upstream Member State to ensure a predictable and sufficient flow of water across borders when the flow is regulated through dams?
2. Are Member States obliged, under Directive 2000/60/EC and the principle of sincere cooperation, to ensure transparency and citizens’ access to the terms of bilateral arrangements affecting cross-border waters?
3. Does it intend to look into whether an unpublished ‘joint statement’ without clear legally binding effects, complies with the principles of transparency, good administration and legal certainty?

Submitted: 9.3.2026