

Question for written answer E-003149/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Nikolas Farantouris (S&D)

Subject: Guaranteeing access to drinking water as a human right

In 2010, the UN General Assembly recognised the right to safe drinking water and sanitation as a human right¹. The European Citizens' Initiative 'Right2Water' and the European Parliament Resolution of 2015 on the follow-up to this initiative called on the Commission to enshrine this right in law².

The recast Directive on drinking water (Directive (EU) 2020/2184) improved access to water, especially for vulnerable groups³ and the European Water Resilience Strategy of 2025 explicitly recognises access to clean and affordable water as a human right. However, the right has not yet been enshrined in EU primary law.

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

1. Does it intend to take legislative or other steps (including a possible proposal to amend the Charter of Fundamental Rights or strengthen existing directives) to fully guarantee access to drinking water as a human right?
2. What additional measures is it planning as part of the Water Resilience Strategy to ensure the universal and effective exercise of this right, especially for vulnerable groups?

Submitted: 28.7.2026

¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/687002?v=pdf>.

² https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-8-2015-0294_EN.html

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2020/2184/oj>.