

**Question for written answer E-003959/2026/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Nikolaos Anadiotis (NI)

Subject: Smart water meters: data protection and universal access to water

The Commission is preparing an action plan for the digitalisation of the water sector¹, including the widespread deployment of smart meters for all² and the use of IoT and AI technologies.

While these technologies are designed to help save water and detect leaks, the collection of detailed household consumption data gives rise to the risk of profiling, commercial exploitation and automated decision-making.

Water is a natural resource, a ‘shared resource’ as the European Parliament put it, not a mere commercial product. Access to drinking water for all is provided for under Article 16 of Directive (EU) 2020/2184. At the same time, Article 17 requires compliance with applicable data protection rules³.

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

1. Will it ensure that smart meter data is not used for unnecessary profiling, commercialisation or transmission to third parties?
2. Will it take measures to ensure that smart meters, algorithms and AI do not lead to the automated restriction or interruption of water supply, in particular as a result of financial hardship?

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¹ [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=intcom:Ares\(2026\)5310172&utm](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=intcom:Ares(2026)5310172&utm).

² https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-seeks-input-digital-action-plan-water-sector-2026-05-27_en.

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?qid=1749788796089&uri=CELEX:32020L2184&utm>.