

**Question for written answer E-003985/2026
to the Commission**
Rule 144
Kathleen Funchion (The Left)

Subject: Wastewater treatment compliance

There is an ongoing dispute around the provision of wastewater treatment in Kilkee, County Clare. Currently, raw sewerage is discharged into the sea. The response from Uisce Éireann is to provide a primary type wastewater plant instead of a long-promised secondary type wastewater treatment plant. Local activists are disputing this approach as it will not deliver the necessary quality of wastewater treatment for a coastal area that sees population spikes in the summer, owing to tourism. It is also being argued that such an approach would be opposed to the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive¹ as it does not constitute ‘appropriate treatment’, with liquids from the plant continuing to be discharged into the a special area of conservation even after the proposed plant is developed. The local activists have provided alternatives in support of a type-two plant.

In the light of these facts and the attached judgments from the planning authorities, does the Commission consider the situation at Kilkee a breach of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and how is the Commission ensuring compliance with the directive in such cases where the Irish authorities are flagrantly ignoring best practice when alternatives are readily presented?

Submitted: 2.10.2026

¹ Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (OJ L, 2024/3019, 12.12.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/3019/oj>).