

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001004/25
to the Commission
Costas Mavrides (S&D)
(7 March 2025)**

Subject: Breach of the contract terms of the bi-communal waste water treatment plant project in occupied Mia Milia in Nicosia

The Nicosia Waste Water Treatment Unit began operations in 2013, using advanced membrane technology to produce safe, recycled water for irrigation purposes. It treats waste water from the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities. The project, which has a total cost of around EUR 29 million, is being co-financed by the Nicosia Sewerage Council (70%) and the European Commission (30%) and is being implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

Since the start of the project, the two communities have worked together so that this water can be reused for agricultural irrigation. However, for some time now, a large part of the recycled water produced has ended up coursing down the Pedieos river into the sea close to the occupied area of Famagusta. This is because the occupying authorities have prevented repayment of the debt to the managing company. The value of the lost water for the 2020-2024 period alone is estimated to be EUR 28 million.

In view of this, can the Commission say:

1. Is it aware of the stance taken by the occupying regime and, if so, what steps has it taken to put an end to this unfortunate development?
2. Has the European Court of Auditors been informed of the breach of the project contract terms, given that the project is being co-financed by European funds?

Submitted: 7.3.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Fitto on behalf of the European Commission
(12 May 2025)**

Since the establishment of the Nicosia wastewater treatment plant in 2013, the two Cypriot communities have agreed on the principle of recovering and sharing the treated water. For this to happen, a system of pipes and reservoirs needs to be constructed to channel the water to the end consumers and store it close to them. This infrastructure does not exist and therefore the treated water has been systematically discharged into the Pedieos river.

In 2019, the Commission financed a feasibility study of a pipe system that would recover and bring the treated water from the plant to consumers around Athienou, estimating its cost at around EUR 50 million. It is for the two Cypriot communities to decide whether to proceed with taking on this project.

The operation of the Nicosia wastewater treatment plant is the responsibility of the two Cypriot communities. The Commission is not part of this contract.
