

(English version)

Question for written answer E-002834/25
to the Commission
Galato Alexandraki (ECR)
(11 July 2025)

Subject: Public health risk: legionella detected in tourist facilities

This tourist season, alarming rates of legionella have been detected in the tap water of a number of tourist facilities, mainly in Crete. Legionellosis poses a serious threat to public health, especially in areas with high numbers of visitors and high temperatures, such as southern Europe. The national authorities carry out periodic checks, but questions arise as to the effectiveness of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water.

In view of the above, can the Commission say:

1. Is the Commission aware of the presence of legionella in tourist facilities in Crete and of its rates of detection in water?
2. Will it strengthen prevention by means of stricter checks and additional financial support to Member States for monitoring and prevention systems?
3. How does it assess the adequacy of the implementation of Directive (EU) 2020/2184, and is there a single European system for recording and monitoring legionellosis in tourist areas?

Submitted: 11.7.2025

Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 August 2025)

In 2025, nine travel-associated Legionnaires' disease (TALD) cases linked to accommodation in Crete were reported to the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) ⁽¹⁾ through the European Legionnaires' disease Surveillance network ⁽²⁾ (ELDSNet).

This included one cluster in Crete, which led to a site risk assessment by the Greek authorities. Local public health officials confirmed that appropriate measures had been taken in Crete.

As this cluster does not meet the criteria for a serious cross-border health threat, the ECDC did not notify the Commission. Under the recast Drinking Water Directive ⁽³⁾, the Commission has not received any information about *Legionella* in domestic distribution installations in Crete.

The recast Drinking Water Directive requires Member States to carry out a *Legionella* risk assessment and monitoring for the first time by January 2029 at the latest and every six years thereafter, at least in domestic distribution installations of priority premises where risks to water quality and human health have been identified. If risks are identified, appropriate measures must be taken to eliminate or reduce the risk.

The ECDC anticipates an increase in the number of TALD cases, partly due to climate change and an aging European population that is at higher risk of developing the disease.

Member States must establish, for the first time by January 2029 at the latest and every six years thereafter, a dataset containing the results of the *Legionella* risk assessment and monitoring and, where applicable, the measures to eliminate or reduce the risk including information on initiatives for awareness-raising. The Commission and the ECDC must have access to this dataset once it has been established.

⁽¹⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en>.

⁽²⁾ <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/about-us/partnerships-and-networks/disease-and-laboratory-networks/eldsnet>.

⁽³⁾ Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1-62.