

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001182/26
to the Commission
Kostas Papadakis (NI)
(20 March 2026)**

Subject: Acute water supply problem in Aegina

A new fault in Aegina's undersea water supply pipeline, in the same place where a previous fault had occurred, has caused serious problems leading to Aegina being cut off from the EYDAP (Athens Water Supply and Sewerage Company) water network with use of the pipeline being forbidden due to the unsuitability of the water.

Despite falsely reassuring promises from the Government and the local administration claiming that 'Aegina's water supply will be fully restored by the end of February', the problem remains acute. This situation shows that the State, the Government and the competent bodies — referring both to the current and previous administrations — are selectively unable to ensure the proper functioning and protection of an important but also very expensive project. This policy is underpinned by the EU's strategy of turning water into an expensive commodity, as it is managed on a commercial basis.

In view of the above, where does the Commission stand on the following:

1. the fact that directive 2000/60/EC has led to the fragmentation of water and irrigation infrastructure and the privatisation of profitable sections, resulting in water becoming a costly commodity that is received, stored and transported in infrastructure of dubious quality, with dire consequences for Aegina and many other parts of Greece that are also deprived of access to cheap and safe water and in several cases face serious water scarcity problems, with some also affected by flooding?
2. the legitimate demands of the Greek people for quality and cheap water to be provided with all the necessary infrastructure in place and under the sole responsibility of the State?

Submitted: 20.3.2026

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(12 May 2026)**

The Water Framework Directive ⁽¹⁾ is neutral regarding public or private ownership of water services and leaves full discretion to Member States as regards national governance structures.

The directive also allows Member States broad flexibility in setting water pricing and related cost-recovery mechanisms, taking into account socioeconomic, environmental, geographic, and climatic conditions, provided the environmental objectives are met.

Member States are hence entirely responsible for water management, including allocation decisions, prioritisation during scarcity, infrastructure investment, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and the Drinking Water Directive ⁽²⁾.

The latter requires ensuring access to safe drinking water, to identify and manage supply risks, and taking timely preventive and corrective action where risks are known. Particular attention must also be paid to vulnerable groups during supply disruptions.

To ensure access and affordability, Member States may use tools such as subsidies, social or progressive tariffs, and cost redistribution from households to polluters and intensive users, in line with the polluter-pays principle and the 'adequate contribution' clause.

The Water Resilience Strategy ⁽³⁾ recognises access to clean, affordable water as a human right and includes a flagship action to support leakage reduction and infrastructure modernisation.

Under the modernised cohesion policy ⁽⁴⁾, EUR 1.3 billion (EU contribution) ⁽⁵⁾ has been allocated to Greece for 2021-2027 to strengthen water management and resilience, including drinking water systems.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1-73, as amended by Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32-35.

⁽²⁾ 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.

⁽³⁾ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

⁽⁴⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en.

⁽⁵⁾ Out of which EUR 73.4 million have been allocated under the regional Programme 'Attiki'.