

EN

E-001611/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.7.2026)

The Commission opened an infringement case in 2024 against Sweden¹ for failure to correctly transpose the Water Framework Directive (WFD)² by not providing for periodic reviews of relevant controls and water permits. This infringement case is ongoing. It is not directly related to alleged shortcomings in the authorisation of new mining operations.

The Commission is also in the process of assessing the transposition of the revised Drinking Water Directive (DWD)³ in all Member States.

The process of granting mining permits must comply with, inter alia, the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive⁴, which ensures that any significant effects on water are integrated in the preparation and assessment of projects. An infringement case is ongoing against Sweden⁵ regarding incorrect transposition of that Directive.

Without prejudice to the Commission's role as guardian of the Treaties, Member States are primarily responsible to ensure compliance with EU law, including with regard to individual cases of potential breach of the water quality rules. This includes e.g. Article 4(7) WFD for new projects, Article 7(3) WFD for the protection of drinking water, as well as the DWD.

The Commission has recently adopted guidance⁶ aiming to help reduce uncertainties regarding procedures and assessments during permitting of new or existing activities affecting water bodies, with a focus on the mining sector. The goal is to support Europe's overall resilience, whilst keeping a high level of protection of the environment and human health.

¹ INFR(2024)2236: [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2024\)2236&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR(2024)2236&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate).

² 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.

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, pp. 1–62.

⁴ Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (codification), OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, pp. 1–21.

⁵ INFR(2019)2222: [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2019\)2222&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate](https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR(2019)2222&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate).

⁶ Guidance for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive during the permitting of new and existing activities with a particular focus on the mining sector: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_26_1129.