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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(30.9.2026)

In EU water supply systems, asbestos-cement pipes were widely used up to the 1980s. Although still present in Member States' water supply systems, these pipes are progressively phased out. Under the recast Drinking Water Directive (DWD)¹, Member States are required to assess potential health risks and, where necessary, take measures to eliminate such risks. To ensure the protection of human health, Member States must ensure that the level of lead in drinking water does not exceed the limit values for lead set out in the recast DWD.

The DWD requires Member States to ensure that drinking water is monitored, risks are assessed and managed, and the required data is made available to the European Environmental Agency² and the Commission. The Commission does not routinely check local monitoring and data collection, as primary responsibility lies with Member States' competent authorities. However, where there are indications of non-compliances, the Commission can request clarifications, launch targeted fact-finding, and, if necessary, pursue infringement action.

The deadline for transposing the DWD in national law was 12 January 2023. The Commission is assessing the transposition conformity in all Member States. In this context, the Commission has launched an infringement procedure INFR(2025)2026³ for non-conform transposition against Spain. While the Commission has no indication of any drinking water quality compliance issues in the area concerned, it will continue to monitor the annually updated drinking water quality data provided by Spain. If the Commission identifies shortcomings in water quality compliance, it may take appropriate follow-up action, including infringement proceedings specifically related to such shortcomings.

¹ 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.

² <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en>.

³ [https://ec.europa.eu/implementing-eu-law/search-infringement-decisions/?langCode=EN&version=v1&typeOfSearch=byDecision&refId=INFR\(2025\)2026&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(2025)2026&page=1&size=10&order=desc&sortColumns=decisionDate).