

**Question for written answer E-008219/2014
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Morten Messerschmidt (ECR)

Subject: Possible infringement of the Water Framework Directive by a Danish local authority

I have been informed by a member of the public that a Danish local authority - Guldborgsund - is infringing the EU's Water Framework Directive (Council Directive 91/271/EEC) by not opting for the cheapest waste-water disposal solution - which in many instances, in densely populated areas, involves slow percolation - and, instead, piping waste water to a sewage disposal plant 25 km away. That is contrary to Council Directive 91/271/EEC, under which waste water must be reused as far as possible. In this specific instance, reuse can be ensured by means of a purification method termed 'willow waste water cleaning'.

A detailed description of the method can be found at <http://pilerens.vaalse.dk>.

In this connection, will the Commission ask the Danish Ministry for the Environment whether the Guldborgsund local authority is acting in contravention of the abovementioned EU directive in requiring private households to connect to its sewerage system, which is more costly than the willow cleaning method, for example? Will the Commission independently assess whether the directive is being infringed and, if it is, tighten up the rules for the Danish Ministry for the Environment?