

**Question for written answer E-005900/2015  
to the Commission**  
Rule 130  
**Biljana Borzan (S&D)**

Subject: Protection and use of groundwater in karst areas

By joining the European Union, Croatia has harmonised its regulations with the EU acquis, among other things in the area of water management. Croatia can be said to be a leader of its region, whose other countries follow its path. However, due to the specificity of karst areas the management of groundwater in them is extremely complex, and we can say that even in the EU legislation this issue has remained sketchy.

Aware of the situation and of the inestimable value of these resources, as well as of the fact that only joint action can ensure their sustainable use and protection, Member States of the EU with karst areas have taken the initiative and under the aegis of UNESCO launched DIKTAS, a project of protection and sustainable use of transboundary aquifers of the Dinaric karst.

While taking this into account, it is clear that the issue of groundwater management in karst areas needs to be further regulated in a more detailed way by EU legislation.

Therefore, I would like to know whether attempts are being made to find optimal solutions and what specific measures are planned for the protection and utilisation of groundwater in the EU?