

**Question for written answer E-007879/2015  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

**Laura Ferrara (EFDD), Fabio Massimo Castaldo (EFDD) and Dario Tamburrano (EFDD)**

Subject: Reduction in water supply to debtor municipalities by So.Ri.Cal. S.p.A.

One of the objectives of Directive 2000/60/EC is 'the provision of the sufficient supply of [...] surface water' (Article 1). That Directive upholds the principle that 'water is not a commercial product like any other' ('whereas' clause 1).

The Green Paper on Services of General Interest defines a common set of obligations including 'universal service' (section 3.1.1), 'continuity' (section 3.1.2) and 'quality of service' (section 3.1.3). It goes on to define further obligations such as 'security of supply' (paragraph 65), which implies that 'a sustainable provision of the service is ensured in the long term' (paragraph 67).

In Calabria, the utility So.Ri.Cal. S.p.A., a public limited company, manages the catchment and supply of the region's water. It is reducing water pressure to debtor municipalities, in order to 'raise public awareness' and 'make municipalities aware' that they should pay their debts promptly (source: [www.soricalspa.it](http://www.soricalspa.it)). Such behaviour forms no part of So.Ri.Cal's own charter of services. It also infringes TEC Article 82, which prohibits abuse of a dominant position.

Instead of resorting to normal judicial means of debt recovery, So.Ri.Cal. is acting in breach of European rules and principles by not fulfilling 'the particular tasks assigned to them' (TEC Article 86).

Is the Commission aware of the facts outlined above?

Does it consider that the European principles and rules governing the supply of water, as a utility in the public interest, have been met?