

**Question for written answer E-001997/2016
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Danger of severe water scarcity

According to a major new analysis¹, at least two thirds of the global population, or more than 4 billion people, live with severe water scarcity for at least one month each year.

The study shows that water shortage, which is one of the most dangerous challenges the world faces, is far worse than previously thought. The data show that it is also expected to affect the southern Member States.

The new research also reveals that 500 million people live in places where water consumption is double the amount replenished by rain for the entire year, leaving them extremely vulnerable as underground aquifers run down.

In light of this new evidence, the Commission is asked to answer the following:

1. Is it aware of the new data? If so, what is its contingency plan for responding to such water shortages within and outside the EU?
2. How does it intend to enhance its engagement with both European and non-European civil society and national authorities under various frameworks (enhanced green diplomacy and planning, and the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda) in order to respond to new challenges?

¹ <http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/2/2/e1500323.full>