

**Question for written answer E-001667/2017
to the Commission**

Rule 130

Viorica Dăncilă (S&D)

Subject: Irrigation water

Plant growth and development are influenced by the degree of salinity in the soil, and this in turn depends on the initial content of salts and on the degree of mineralization of the irrigation water. The salts in the soil influence the growth of plants, usually indirectly, by reducing plant water accessibility, by worsening the nutritional regime and by disrupting metabolism, and, directly, through the toxic action on plants and the salts in the irrigation water distributed through water sprinkling and by the salts sucked up by roots.

The influence which mineralised irrigation water has on the soil, flora and fauna is directly or indirectly reflected in the environment and people's health. The environment is primarily affected by soil degradation as a result of salinisation and/or alkalisation, pollution with heavy metals (cadmium, chromium, lead, mercury), with micro-nutrients and some toxic ions, and, in the case of domestic sewage or from zoo-technical complexes (not very many at present), with pathogenic and infectious and contagious agents, viruses and bacteria, as well.

What strategy does the Commission have to cooperate with Member States and with universities to properly monitor the quality of the irrigation water and to find adequate solutions in order to reduce the negative impact on the soil and plants?