

WRITTEN QUESTION E-1683/02
by Ursula Schleicher (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Directive 98/83/EC on the quality of water intended for human consumption (Drinking Water Directive)

Experts involved in the transposition into national law of Directive 98/83/EC¹ on the quality of water intended for human consumption (Drinking Water Directive) have criticised a fundamental error in the Directive which regulates the quality of drinking water but not the measures necessary to guarantee this quality. The current limit values for lead of 40 µg/l are already frequently exceeded, particularly when drinking water stands in lead pipes for long periods of time.

Does the Commission have any information on specific measures taken by the Member States to reduce levels of lead for the population?

Compliance with the future limit values of 25 µg/l and 10 µg/l by 2013 will be impossible unless lead pipes are replaced.

Does the Commission have any information on which Member States provide aid or subsidies for the replacement of lead pipes?

¹ OJ L 330, 5.12.1998, p. 32.