

WRITTEN QUESTION E-3567/03  
by Chris Davies (ELDR)  
to the Commission

Subject: Water for Life

On 3 September 2002 the European Union launched its 'major global Water Initiative aimed at creating strategic partnerships to achieve the World Summit on Sustainable Development goals on clean water and sanitation', viz. to halve the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation by 2015.

1. How many 'strategic partnerships' have now been established and how many people have to date benefited from access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation as a result?
2. The EU made clear that it was ready to increase financial resources over and above the EUR 1.4 billion per year then being invested in water-related aid. By how much has it done so?
3. Given that 10 per cent of the time needed to reach the 2015 goals has now passed, what is the Commission's assessment of progress to date and the likelihood of the targets being realised?
4. What action must a developing country take in order to take advantage of the EU promise to increase financial resources towards water-related development aid?