

**Question for written answer E-008907/2012
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Thijs Berman (S&D)

Subject: ECA Special Report No 13/2012

On 28 September 2012, the European Court of Auditors (ECA) released a special report on European Union development assistance for drinking water supply and basic sanitation in Sub-Saharan countries.

In drawing up the report the ECA visited 23 projects (in 6 countries) financed under the 7th, 8th and 9th EDF. These projects totalled EUR 400 million, of which 49 % was paid by the Commission.

The ECA's comments included the following:

- Only 2 of the projects met the needs of the beneficiaries as defined in the projects themselves.
- In 19 of the projects the price per litre of water was set at a level which did not cover the running costs of the projects.
- In 7 of the projects the local authorities were unable to ensure that the installations operated properly.
- In 11 of the projects the economic and financial analysis was insufficient.
- In 6 cases the poorest and most vulnerable people did not have access to the services concerned.

What is the Commission intending to do to ensure that the local authorities are capable of maintaining the installations in future?

How is the Commission intending to ensure financial feasibility in the long term?

How will the Commission, together with the local authorities concerned, ensure that the poorest and the most vulnerable people will have access to the services?