

**Question for written answer E-002434/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Karim Zéribi (Verts/ALE)**

Subject: Findings of the investigation into the water sector in France

On 18 January 2012, under Article 101 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, your services opened an investigation procedure against France on a possible cartel between three companies in the water sector: the Suez, Veolia and La Saur groups. You then announced in your press release at the time that the Commission would examine the companies' behaviour over the months to come, as well as the behaviour of the professional federation of water companies. This procedure was opened after surprise inspections took place in France in April 2010. At that time, the company Lyonnaise de Eaux (owned by Suez) was fined EUR 8 million by the Commission for the breach of a seal.

One year later, we have still not heard anything from you regarding this investigation. At a time when local authorities are in the process of renewing their water management contracts or considering making water management public, it would be dangerous for them to again enter into lengthy contracts with international companies which do not respect the most basic ethical rules. It is therefore Europe's duty to allow local public authorities to take responsibility and make decisions in full knowledge of the facts.

Bearing this in mind, when does the Commission plan to make us aware of the findings of this investigation in the most transparent manner possible?