

**Question for written answer E-006382/2013
to the Commission
Rule 117
Robert Goebbels (S&D)**

Subject: Annual report on the quality of bathing water.

According to the recent annual report on the quality of bathing water published by the European Environment Agency and the Commission, the quality of 22 000 bathing areas is excellent in 78 % of the sites monitored, a figure that is higher than the previous year. According to this report, Cyprus and Luxembourg stand out for excellent quality of bathing water.

In the case of Luxembourg, 'the improvement' seems to be the result of a very selective presentation of bathing sites. Before 2012, Luxembourg monitored 20 different bathing sites, 9 of which did not generally comply with European standards, whereas the recent report related to only 11 sites, 10 of which are declared to be of 'excellent' quality and one of 'good' quality. According to the agency, bathing has been banned at the 9 other sites and these are therefore no longer subject to European monitoring.

This approach is particularly peculiar since, according to qualified representatives of the Ministry of the Interior, the administration had no intention of reporting any violators of the ban on bathing imposed at the 9 sites.

1. What is the Commission's view on the Luxembourg authorities' approach?
2. Do other Member States proceed in a similar way, removing from the list of bathing waters the sites that do not meet European standards?
3. If so, how many sites have been de-listed since Directive 2006/7/EC came into force?
4. Is the improvement in the quality of European bathing water recorded in recent years by the EEA due to this type of 'selectivity'?