

**Question for written answer E-014173/2013  
to the Commission**

Rule 117

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Subject: Water management in the EU - reduction of leakages

In November 2013, the groups Ecologistas en Acción, Agua és Vida, Som lo que Sembrem, Grup de Defensa del Ter, Plataforma de Defensa del Ebro, Marea Azul del Sur, Red Agua Pública and Ingenieros sin Fronteras presented the document entitled 'Proposals for improved water management in the EU'.

The Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources considers that leakage from water distribution networks 'can only be tackled on a case-by-case basis to assess the environmental and economic benefits of reducing the leakage levels'.

Leakage levels in water distribution networks are generally very high, irrespective of use, in most EU Member States. Leakage levels generally go up in line with increased availability of resources.

Leakage levels are much higher in privately operated drinking water distribution networks than in state-run distribution networks.

Does the Commission think that EU legislation should include provisions laying down that:

1. Member States should reliably determine existing leakage levels in distribution networks for different water uses?
2. Leakage levels in water distribution networks should be cut (primary and secondary networks) below 15 % in urban and industrial supplies, and below 20 % in irrigation?
3. The EU should establish financial aid to reduce leakage levels in primary and secondary water distribution networks?
4. Supply companies, as well as industry and irrigation associations that have not reduced their leakage levels below the above levels should be penalised by the water authorities?