

**Question for written answer E-003685/2014
to the Commission**
Rule 117
Ewald Stadler (NI)

Subject: Privatisation of drinking water

In its response to the European Citizens' Initiative 'Right2Water' the Commission stated that it is not competent to propose legislative acts dealing with this matter. It added that it would continue to ensure full compliance with Treaty rules requiring the EU to remain neutral in relation to national decisions governing the ownership regime for water undertakings (see Commission communication COM(2014)0177).

In Greece, however, the Troika, whose policies the Commission helps to set, is continuing to insist on the privatisation of the waterworks in Athens and Thessaloniki.

1. How can the measures advocated by the Troika be reconciled with the Commission's supposed neutrality on the issue of the ownership regime for water undertakings (Article 345 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union: 'The Treaties shall in no way prejudice the rules in Member States governing the system of property ownership.')?
2. What development policy measures will the Commission take in order to prevent any sell-off of water-supply services on an international scale?