

Question for written answer E-004842/2020
to the Commission
Rule 138
Laura Ferrara (NI)

Subject: Calabria Water Authority: delay in awarding the management of the integrated water service

The statutory purpose of the Calabria Water Authority (Autorità Idrica della Calabria – AIC), established by means of Regional Law 18/2017, is 'to organise the integrated water service in the Optimal Territorial Area (OTA), covering the entire regional territory, and to plan and monitor the management of the integrated water service in accordance with (EU, national and regional) law and with the decisions of the Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and the Environment (Autorità di Regolazione per Energia Reti e Ambiente – ARERA)'.

In this context, the functions of the AIC's Board include 'choosing the form of management' of the integrated water service, i.e. awarding the integrated water service to a private, mixed or public company.

To date, more than three years after the AIC was established, the form of management of the integrated water service has still not been decided.

Not only does this delay constitute a further problem for the already poor management of Calabria's water service, but it is also a fundamental obstacle to the complete fulfilment of the 'enabling conditions' (to be met by December 2020), which is necessary to access funding under the new Cohesion Policy 2021-2027.

Does the Commission consider that Calabria has met the deadlines laid down for fulfilling the 'enabling conditions' in the water sector?

Does it intend to urge the Region to speed up the procedures for implementing the integrated water service?

What further steps does it intend to take to bring an end to these delays?