

**Question for written answer E-005083/2020  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Anna Zalewska (ECR)**

**Subject:** Implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

On 10 September 2020, the Commission published its tenth report on the implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. During his presentation, Commissioner Sinkevičius said:

‘Progress in individual countries is not equal – in some Member States there is a need for better planning and increased funding for sewerage infrastructure. We will make every effort to stimulate innovation and new investment in the environmental infrastructure sector throughout Europe’.

The Commission then asserted: ‘At the same time, the Commission has launched an impact assessment to assess different policy options, with a view to modernising the directive’.

In Eastern European countries, including Poland, problems with urban wastewater treatment and poor water quality are linked to decades of neglect and lack of investment under Communist rule. Despite the positive attitude of the state and local authorities, it is not possible to bridge such a huge gap quickly, so I ask:

1. Under the 'modernisation of the Directive' and 'stimulation of innovation and new investment', as referred to by the Commission, are changes to the system for financing such investments being considered, with a view to giving the local authorities of individual cities and municipalities the opportunity to use EU funds more widely?
2. Would it be possible to reduce the requirements for the own contribution of individual entities to financing such investments?
3. Would it not be reasonable to ring-fence a special fund to finance such investments in countries which, through no fault of their own, are significantly delayed in implementing the directive?