

**Question for written answer E-004964/2021  
to the Commission**  
Rule 138  
**Radan Kanev (PPE)**

**Subject:** Access to drinking water crisis for the people of Haskovo

For decades now, the residents of the city of Haskovo and the surrounding villages have not had safe access to quality drinking water. Over 70 000 people are having to use bottled water for drinking purposes or to risk their health by using water from the public water supply system that does not meet EU standards owing to its high uranium content and high alpha radiation activity levels. At the same time, the price of water in the area is among the highest in the country and its production is highly energy-intensive. There has been a ban on using the water in Haskovo for drinking and cooking since 22 September 2021, by order of the health authorities. Access to clean drinking water, together with the protection of public health from radioactive substances in water, is guaranteed under European legislation.

In this connection, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. Is the Commission prepared to help the Bulgarian authorities guarantee Bulgarians citizens the right of access to drinking water?
2. Can the Commission conduct an audit of the causes of the water quality and water price crisis that has led to the rights of the people of Haskovo being violated?