

**Question for written answer E-000393/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Aurélia Beigneux (ID)

Subject: Depleting water reserves in Mediterranean capitals

The Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urban Planning has reported that Istanbul's water reserves are depleting. Severe droughts, extreme urbanisation and the growing population are raising concerns about the city's water security. With no magic bullet in sight, environmental scientists are looking for sound ways to prevent water loss in times of shortage. Since the first half of 2021, the level of Istanbul's reservoirs has dropped to 20%, which is less than a month and a half's worth of supply for the city of around 16 million people.

Due to their location in the Mediterranean basin, like Istanbul, EU cities are among the urban areas worst affected by climate change. Floods, droughts, forest fires and heat waves are becoming increasingly common and severe across the entire world.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission drawing up contingency plans for European capitals to address this shortage?
2. Has a long-term monitoring programme been set up to assess the reserves needed to supply the population?