

**Question for written answer E-000827/2022
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Guido Reil (ID)

Subject: Brandenburg Tesla factory and water supply

Groundwater levels in the state of Brandenburg in Germany have been falling continuously for the last three decades.

Irina Engelhardt, Head of Hydrogeology at the Technical University of Berlin, says the planned expansion of the Tesla factory will exacerbate this problem. In her view, there will not be enough water for everyone. Axel Bronstert, Professor of Hydrology at the University of Potsdam, also fears that the factory could double the amount of water consumed in the region.

Even Brandenburg's Minister for Economic Affairs, Jörg Steinbach, has admitted that the area will need much more water if Tesla expands its factory. Authorities are supporting efforts to drill for more water locally and supply could be brought in from other areas if needed¹.

Environmental activists warn that Tesla's gigafactory threatens the entire region's drinking water supply, and have filed a lawsuit against Brandenburg's Ministry for the Environment.

1. With regard to the European water scarcity and droughts policy, what does the Commission make of the policy adopted by the state of Brandenburg²?
2. What is its assessment of Brandenburg's policy with regard to its climate policy?
3. Does the Commission think that it is acceptable for the Brandenburg population's water supply to be jeopardised for the drive towards electric mobility?

¹ Elon Musk dismissed claims that Tesla's German Gigafactory will suck up too much water, but experts say there's not enough to go around, Kate Duffy, *Business Insider*, 22 February 2022.

² Communication from the Commission. Report on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Droughts Policy, COM(2012)672 final, 14 November 2012.