

**Question for written answer E-001146/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Water pollution caused by residues of medicinal products

New studies are now available on water pollution caused by residues of medicinal products. These studies show that all of the rivers analysed had some level of these residues¹. 258 rivers on all major continents were studied.

The most alarming result of all is this: 19% of the sites studied worldwide 'had concentrations of at least one antimicrobial drug above safe levels', sometimes as much as 300 times higher than those levels.

The study points the finger at wastewater treatment plants, whose primary purpose is to filter out nitrogen and phosphorus residues, but not residues of medicinal products.

In Marseille, 250 micrograms of paracetamol were found per litre of water studied.

In view of the above:

1. Is the Commission in possession of a specific study concerning the situation in the EU?
2. Are there any rivers in Europe with levels above those deemed to be safe?
3. Does a programme exist to limit these residues? If so, does the Commission plan to expand it?

¹ What do all rivers around the world have in common? Residues of medicinal products, Margot HINRY, National Geographic, 10 March 2022