

**Question for written answer E-002056/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

**Annika Bruna** (ID), **Ivan Vilibor Sinčić** (NI), **Gilles Lebreton** (ID), **Elżbieta Kruk** (ECR), **Maxette Pirbakas** (NI)

**Subject:** Reducing pollution from seawater desalination plants

Desalination plants are extremely energy intensive, depending on the technology used, and produce large quantities of heated, highly concentrated brine.

High salinity and reduced oxygen levels can kill marine life. Some toxic chemicals, such as chlorine and copper, are also present in the brine.

It is, however, possible to reduce the energy consumption of desalination plants by using membrane filtration rather than water heating technology.

Brine can also be reused in aquaculture (to increase fish biomass), agriculture (to irrigate and fertilise salt-tolerant plants such as spirulina algae) or industry (to extract minerals and metals).

Lastly, research is ongoing into biofiltration systems that will avoid the need for chemical treatment.

Is the Commission funding research into reducing the pollution caused by these desalination plants, since they are now increasingly cropping up around the world, including in Europe and the EU's outermost territories?