

**Question for written answer E-003789/2022  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Biomedia pollution and revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

Biomedia, or filter media, are small, perforated plastic media, used to treat waste water in a large number of community and industrial treatment plants. Purifying bacteria attach to them and proliferate, thereby improving the efficiency of the process.

If something malfunctions and/or operators do not follow the right practices, the biomedia can leak out of the plants and spread rapidly in aquatic environments, leading to long-term plastic pollution with harmful effects on fauna and flora.

Numerous cases of pollution have been identified, including two recent major ones in the Mediterranean Sea: over 130 million biomedia leaked following a purification plant accident in Salerno (Italy) in 2018 and there was another case in Bastia (France) in 2020.

With no adequate EU legislation in place, this avoidable plastic pollution continues to happen.

The Commission is currently working on a revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. As things stand, the text fails to propose the ambitious measures needed to address the chronic nature of biomedia pollution.

How and through what specific measures will the Commission put an end to such pollution?

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