

**Question for written answer E-000398/2023  
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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**Subject:** Sewage canal poses risk of ecological disaster

Water is a common good and a limited resource that needs to be protected and used in a sustainable way. It is, however, under pressure from a number of sectors. The EU Water Framework Directive<sup>1</sup> establishes a legal framework to protect clean water in the EU and to ensure its long-term sustainable use. It is complemented by more specific legislation, such as the Drinking Water Directive<sup>2</sup>.

In Ljubljana, we have some of the best drinking water in Europe. We are concerned about the construction of the sewage canal, which is supposed to connect the sewage water from neighbouring municipalities of Ljubljana with the city's central sewage treatment plant. The sewage canal is believed to have been constructed illegally with EU funds by the Municipality of Ljubljana, which is an investor and contractor. Worse still, it poses the risk of being the worst ecological disaster in Slovenia.

The canal has almost been fully built (with EU funds) despite the fact that the National Institute of Public Health issued a negative opinion on this construction.

1. Is the Commission aware of how the route for the sewage canal has been inadequately selected?
2. Was it misled in allowing the construction without an environmental permit?
3. What action can the Commission take in this case when the health of citizens is under threat?

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption. OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1.