

**Question for written answer E-000918/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Water privatisation by the Greek Government

Access to water has been declared by the UN as a human right¹, while the availability of clean water and sanitation is one of the 17 sustainable development goals. The Council of Europe² regards it as a fundamental human right on the grounds that water is essential for life. The Greek Government has now submitted a water privatisation omnibus bill containing 263 articles.³ In view of the climate crisis that is manifesting itself in Greece in the form of both extreme floods and extreme droughts, the country's insularity and the European Right2Water initiative:⁴

Can the Commission answer the following:

1. Does it consider that fair and affordable access to safe and high-quality water can still be ensured under privatised management that is geared to profit alone?
2. What view does it take of the privatisation of essential utilities such as water and electricity that is being encouraged by the Greek Government in contrast to the shift towards renationalisation in Western Europe?
3. How is the introduction of a Water and Waste Regulatory Authority under the bill, without any consultation of the public or the local authorities, consistent with the provisions of the Recovery Fund and the principles of sound law making?

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¹ <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/687002>

² <http://www.assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=17989&lang=en>

³ <https://www.hellenicparliament.gr/UserFiles/2f026f42-950c-4efc-b950-340c4fb76a24/415-r-apovlita-correct-all.pdf>

⁴ <https://right2water.eu/>