

**Question for written answer E-001547/2023/rev.1
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Johan Nissinen (ECR)

Subject: Inadequate wastewater treatment along the Baltic Sea

Inadequate wastewater treatment in coastal municipalities is a major problem in Sweden and other countries bordering the Baltic Sea. During summer, the population of coastal regions increases significantly owing to tourism, putting a strain on the wastewater treatment infrastructure. Many municipal wastewater treatment plants are designed for the year-round residential population and may not have sufficient capacity to handle the increased wastewater flows. As a result, wastewater is released into the heavily polluted Baltic Sea and contributes to the growth of harmful algal blooms, which deplete oxygen levels in the water and impinge on aquatic life.

1. Could the Commission provide a list of projects that aim to address this problem in Sweden, together with information on their funding, including projects linked to the Interreg Baltic Sea Region programme, EU cohesion policy (wastewater treatment infrastructure) or the LIFE programme?
2. How is the Commission tackling the problem by updating regulations, such as the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive¹, the Water Framework Directive² or even the REACH Regulation³?
3. How effective have EU-funded projects, coupled with the regulations, been in helping to solve the problem?

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¹ Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment (OJ L 135, 30.5.1991, p. 40).

² 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).

³ Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency, amending Directive 1999/45/EC and repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No 793/93 and Commission Regulation (EC) No 1488/94 as well as Council Directive 76/769/EEC and Commission Directives 91/155/EEC, 93/67/EEC, 93/105/EC and 2000/21/EC (OJ L 396, 30.12.2006, p. 1).