

**Question for written answer E-002603/2023
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: The uncontrolled and unjustified increase in the cost of bottled water in both European cities and airports

The uncontrolled and unjustified increase in the cost of bottled water in public establishments in European cities is pushing consumers, particularly young people, to order alcoholic or carbonated beverages containing sugars or additives, which are sold at a lower price than water. Furthermore, the presence of limestone and other unpleasant-tasting components excludes tap water from the list of alternative consumer solutions.

In addition, since the introduction of safety regulations concerning liquids in airports, passengers have been prevented from taking bottles of water with them beyond security checkpoints. At the same time, the price of bottled water is equal to or higher than that of alcoholic beverages. This situation raises real public health concerns.

In 2016, Airports Council International (ACI) Europe adopted a recommendation to cap the price of bottled water in European airports at EUR 1 per 50 cl bottle. Yet European airports sell bottled water at exorbitant prices, supporting commercial interests to the detriment of consumers.

1. How does the Commission intend to address this issue?
2. Does the Commission intend to cap the price of bottled water in order to protect the health of European consumers?

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