

Question for written answer E-002862/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Milan Zver (PPE)

Subject: Cohesion project – ‘Wastewater discharge and treatment for the area of the Ljubljansko polje aquifer’

In 2017, the Commission approved a cohesion project in Slovenia entitled ‘Wastewater discharge and treatment for the area of the Ljubljansko polje aquifer’.

It is clear from the title and content of the attached documents that the Commission was aware that the sewage pipe connecting the municipalities of Medvode and Vodice with the treatment plant in Ljubljana passes through groundwater along the Sava River and that there was no public presentation of the project’s environmental impact, in contravention of the provisions of Directive 2014/52/EU and the environmental standards laid down by European legislation.

The aquifer supplies 90% of the city, is critical infrastructure and is the only source of drinking water for 300 000 inhabitants and 150 000 daily visitors. The C0 sewer threatens the strategic and military security of Ljubljana. It is on a seismic fault line and is not built to earthquake-resistant standards. During the floods in August 2023, it came into contact with a drinking water abstraction point in the area of an existing installation. This is an infringement of Directive No 114/2008.

Can the Commission therefore say:

1. Whether it diligently checks that projects supported by European funds do not pose a threat to health, strategic security and critical infrastructure?
2. Whether it considers that the construction of sewage pipes in a water catchment area does not pose a threat to health and strategic security?
3. Whether it considers that the economic solution for sewage treatment in Medvode/Vodice has priority over the health and safety of European citizens?

Submitted: 29.9.2023