

Question for written answer E-002874/2023
to the Commission
Rule 138
Milan Zver (PPE)

Subject: Technical shortcomings in the implementation of part of the project for 'Waste Water Collection and Treatment in the Area of the Aquifer of Ljubljansko Polje'

The C0 main sewer ('Kanal C0') is part of the 'Waste Water Collection and Treatment in the Area of the Aquifer of Ljubljansko Polje' (CCI 2016S116CFMP001) project, which is being co-funded by the EU. According to most experts and the general public, the project poses a risk to a water protection area where 90% of Ljubljana's water is collected and which serves more than 300 000 people. Kanal C0 is a main sewer carrying around 3 000 m³ of faecal and other waste every day. In the event of contamination, Ljubljana would be left without drinking water as there are no other suitable sources. The National Institute of Public Health also opposes the project because of the exceptional health risks.

Experts and civil society point to alarming technical shortcomings, such as:

1. The C0 sewer has been damaged by flooding, causing it to leak.
2. The project is not being carried out in accordance with the EN 752:2017 standard, which is mandatory for the construction of sewage systems in the EU.
3. No comprehensive assessment of the seismic safety of the project has been carried out, despite being requested by the Commission on 11 April 2017. Certificates of seismic resilience for the installed pipes and concrete trench have not been provided.
4. No assessment of the fire safety and explosion resistance of the C0 sewer has been carried out and no certificates of fire and explosion resistance of the fixed pipes have been provided.

I would like to ask the Commission when it will check the project's compliance with the EN 752:2017 standard and produce an independent assessment of the damage to the C0 sewer following the flooding.

Submitted: 29.9.2023