Question for written answer E-000371/2024 to the Commission

Rule 138 **Milan Zver** (PPE)

Subject: Contentious decision by State Secretary Tina Seršen in the case of the C0 sewer

The C0 sewer project¹, which will discharge waste water via groundwater along the Sava river and endanger the health and safety of the residents of Ljubljana, is opposed by many experts, as well as civil society.

In order to push through completion of the project, on 29 December 2023 the Secretary of State for Energy, Tina Seršen, issued a contentious decision which is open to challenge in two respects:

- 1. Its purpose is to avoid having to comply with Articles 88 and 89 of the Environmental Protection Act, which require an environmental impact assessment and environmental consent from the Slovenian Environment Agency (ARSO), by treating the ground under which the C0 sewer runs as a number of smaller units (although the water catchment area above which the C0 sewer runs is a single unit); and
- 2. The law determining who signs legal acts requires that the decision must be signed by a person who has passed the general administrative procedure exam, which Ms Seršen has not.

I would therefore like to ask the Commission, which approved the project in 2017:

- 1. Does it agree that EU-funded projects can bypass Member States' legislation?
- 2. As guardian of the European Treaties, what does it intend to do to prevent the misuse of European funds on the C0 sewer project?
- 3. Has it already opened any investigation into the C0 sewer project?

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Wastewater discharge and treatment for the area of the Ljubljansko polje aquifer