

**Question for written answer E-001027/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Annika Bruna (ID)

Subject: Rescuing oyster farmers from dilapidated and inadequate sewage systems

Norovirus is wreaking havoc on oyster farmers in Arcachon Bay and Brittany where oysters are regularly contaminated, making them unfit for consumption by causing gastroenteritis.¹

The virus spreads particularly during wet periods when the inundation of rain water sewer systems results in sewage containing faeces overflowing from detention basins into the sea.

The problem is that municipalities and joint municipal groupings do not always have sufficient financial means to change underground pipes, construct larger spillways and expand water treatment plants.

French authorities have already received two payments, most recently on 22 December 2023, under the national recovery plan to modernise drinking water and sewage systems.

1. Is the Commission aware of any initiatives on the part of the French State within this recovery plan to modernise sewage systems in coastal municipalities near shellfish farms?
2. If necessary, could the Commission propose modifying the recovery plan to incorporate increased aid to these municipalities?

Submitted: 8.4.2024

¹ https://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2024/04/02/d-arcachon-a-la-bretagne-la-fin-de-l-omerta-sur-la-contamination-des-huitres-par-les-eaux-usees_6225619_3244.html#:~:text=Confront%C3%A9s%20%C3%A0%20des%20interdictions%20r%C3%A9p%C3%A9t%C3%A9es,et%20l%27urbanisation%20du%20littoral