

**Question for written answer P-011528/2012  
to the Commission**  
Rule 117  
**Rita Borsellino (S&D)**

Subject: Decree on drinking water quality standards

Interministerial Decree No 2012/0534/I – C50A amending Legislative Decree No 31/2001 on the quality of water intended for human consumption is currently being considered by the Commission (DG ENTR). This interministerial decree would make it possible to declare as suitable for human consumption water drawn from bodies of water contaminated with toxic and carcinogenic substances, such as cyanobacteria and their microcystins.

Legislative Decree No 31/2001, implementing Directive 98/83/EC, can be amended only in order to introduce more stringent criteria, but not laxer criteria, as would be the case here.

The adoption of this decree would create a specific, well-documented risk to human health, in blatant disregard of the precautionary principle.

The International Society of Doctors for the Environment – Italy (ISDE) has forwarded to the official responsible for monitoring the application of Directive 98/34/EC at the Commission a document setting out a range of observations in support of this call to reject the decree.

Does the Commission not take the view that it should intervene in order to determine whether EU law is being breached and, if necessary, call on the Italian authorities to withdraw the decree?