

Question for oral answer O-0000/2020

to the Council

Rule 136

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on behalf of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

Subject: Implementation of the EU water legislation

The Parliament welcomes the conclusion of the Commission that the Water Framework Directive (WFD) is fit for purpose, yet considers that its implementation needs to be improved and speeded up. Even though the WFD has been successful in setting up a governance framework for integrated water management for hundreds of thousands of water bodies in the EU, in slowing down the deterioration of water status and in reducing chemical pollution, less than half of EU's water bodies are in good status despite the 2015 deadline, only one out of the four freshwater indicators has shown progress over the last 10-15 years and there are a number of issues related to the implementation of the water legislation, largely due to insufficient funding and insufficient integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies. In this context, we would welcome answers from the Council to the following questions:

1. How will the Council incorporate the conclusions of the Fitness Check of the water legislation and what concrete action will the Council and Member States take to ensure that the environmental objectives of the WFD are achieved as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027?
2. Given that one of the main issues on achieving the objectives of the legislation has been insufficient funding, how will the Member States secure the necessary funding for implementing the measures needed to achieve good status of European waters?
3. How will the Member States improve the integration of the directives' environmental objectives in sectoral policies, particularly in agricultural, energy and transport sectors?
4. The Fitness Check identified considerable variations in the implementation of the Directives between the Member States, for instance when it comes to monitored pollutants and established thresholds in the Groundwater Directive. How will the Member States seek to achieve more harmonious implementation?
5. Does the Council consider that there is sufficient funding for the WFD in the recent MFF proposal?
6. What additional measures will Member States take in order to achieve the full implementation of the recovery of the costs of water services (Art. 9 WFD), particularly regarding the full application of the user and polluter pays principles?
7. How are Member States planning to reduce the use of exemptions to the WFD in the third cycle of RBMPs?

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