

**Question for written answer E-002568/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 144

César Luena (S&D), Iratxe García Pérez (S&D)

Subject: Scarcity of water resources and Quintanilla de Flórez bottling plant

Bezoya, a mineral water company, is planning to establish a bottling plant for commercial purposes in Quintanilla de Flórez (province of León, Spain). The plans have been given the go-ahead by the Autonomous Community of Castilla y León (governed by the Spanish Partido Popular). They are based on an ambiguous and imprecise report on the falling water levels in the aquifer, a report which does not follow the historical approach taken to date. The plans have their basis in the Spanish Water Law of 1973, which classes water as a mineral resource and which does not cover climate change, aquifer depletion or the water business.

In light of Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 12:

1. Does the Commission consider it urgent and necessary to introduce legislative reforms that make it compulsory to measure over time the evolution of bodies of water and that establish conditions for suspending, based on the data collected, the extraction of water for commercial purposes until the water table returns to normal?
2. What is the Commission's opinion on the need for a new and updated report whose preliminary analysis on the state of the aquifer follows the historical approach, and on the need to prevent commercial exploitation?

Submitted: 18.11.2024