

**Question for written answer E-002967/2024  
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Water shortages in the French overseas territories

UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 guarantees the fundamental right to drinking water and sanitation, which are foundational to public health, combatting poverty and maintaining ecosystems.

In 2015, Parliament invited the Commission to submit concrete legislative proposals guaranteeing this fundamental right to all Europeans.

That said, the state of affairs in the French overseas territories is unacceptable:

1. in Mayotte, 31.7 % of the population does not have access to running water and 59 % are deprived of basic health services;
2. in French Guiana, 20 % of the population does not have access to drinking water, even though the territory has the third largest water supply in the world;
3. in La Réunion, one in two people do not have potable tap water;
4. in the Antilles, residents are plagued by recurrent water cuts and long-term chlordecone water pollution.

Given the high poverty rate in the French overseas territories, unavoidable spending on domestic water consumption places a disproportionate and unequal pressure on household budgets.

How does the Commission intend to respond to this crisis and ensure that these citizens have guaranteed access to drinking water?

Supporters<sup>1</sup>

Submitted: 16.12.2024

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<sup>1</sup> This question is supported by Members other than the authors: Julie Rechagneux (PFE), Marie-Luce Brasier-Clain (PFE), Valérie Deloge (PFE)