

**Priority question for written answer P-000290/2024
to the Commission**

Rule 138

David Cormand (Verts/ALE), **Marie Toussaint** (Verts/ALE), **Mounir Satouri** (Verts/ALE), **Claude Gruffat** (Verts/ALE), **Damien Carême** (Verts/ALE), **Lydie Massard** (Verts/ALE), **François Alfonsi** (Verts/ALE), **Gwendoline Delbos-Corfield** (Verts/ALE), **Benoît Biteau** (Verts/ALE), **François Thiollet** (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Member State's intentional concealment of misleading commercial practices and potential risks to health and the environment

An investigation by journalists¹ has uncovered serious misleading commercial practices by bottled water brands, in breach of Directive 2009/54/EC on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters.

Annex 1 to the directive defines natural mineral water by its nature and its original purity, preserved intact because of the underground origin of such water, which has been protected from all risk of pollution. The companies in question, however, have used prohibited processes and filters to mislead health authorities and consumers.

The French Government was informed, but it has not restricted or suspended sales of the products in France. It also failed to immediately inform the Commission, contrary to Article 11 of the directive.

1. Does the Commission intend to launch a European investigation into infringements of the directive by natural mineral water brands and bring in measures to put an end to those infringements?
2. Can the Commission say whether infringement proceedings will be launched against France as a result of its deliberate failure to act?
3. What preventive and precautionary measures does the Commission intend to take to uphold the right to clean, unpolluted water?

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¹ https://www.francetvinfo.fr/enquetes-franceinfo/enquete-franceinfo-plusieurs-producteurs-d-eau-en-bouteille-ont-filtre-illegalement-leur-eau-pour-masquer-une-contamination_6333046.html.