

Question for written answer E-015448/2015
to the Commission
Rule 130
Franz Obermayr (ENF)

Subject: Breach of Directive 2009/54/EC by Bulgarian mineral water producers

With a view to protecting consumers, Directive 2009/54/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2009 on the exploitation and marketing of natural mineral waters stipulates that a natural mineral water (a term which covers both mineral and spring waters) from one and the same spring may not be marketed under more than one trade description (e.g. brand name). Since March 2014, Bulgaria has been in breach of this directive. Although the principle of 'one source/one trade description' has been properly transposed into national law, it is not being applied. The breach apparently stems from the fact that, in contravention of the law, a new firm has been granted authorisation to bottle and market water from a source which is already used by an established brand

1. Have the Bulgarian authorities given the Commission an undertaking that they will remedy this state of affairs?
2. What practical steps (including, if appropriate, a timetable for their implementation) have been agreed?
3. How will DG Health and Food Safety ensure that this breach of the directive and of the lengthy compliance monitoring procedure, which has had and will continue to have serious repercussions for the mineral water industry as a whole and the safety of consumers on the Bulgarian market, does not set a precedent for other EU markets?