

EN

E-002777/2022

Answer given by Mr Sinkevičius
on behalf of the European Commission
(23.9.2022)

The Commission is aware of the incident of pollution of the Slana (Sajó) river in Slovakia, as stated in its reply to written question P-2118/2022. The first information in this respect was received on 24 March 2022.

By virtue of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)¹, it is the primary responsibility of the national authorities to identify and implement the measures necessary to avoid deterioration of the water bodies on their territory and bring them, as necessary, into good status as required by the WFD.

The Commission is closely following the latest developments. According to publicly available information, the situation on the Slana river has begun to improve thanks to measures taken by the Slovak authorities². The Slovak authorities maintain that the ecological status of the river has not deteriorated³.

The assessment of Slovak 3rd River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)⁴ is in its initial phase. A first reading thereof shows that Slovakia has invoked a time-limited exemption (Article 4.4 WFD) for the Slana river to achieve good status.

In line with the WFD requirements, the Commission will publish its assessment of the 3rd RBMP of all EU Member States in 2024 and will, in that context, issue country-specific recommendations to improve compliance with the legislation.

¹ Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014 amending Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32–35.

² <https://banskabystrica.zoznam.sk/mimoriadna-situacia-na-rieke-slana-nove-zistenia-odbornikov-prinasaju-dobre-spravy/>

³ Press release of the Slovak Ministry of the Environment of 12/8/2022.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm