



Justice's judgment, the Commission may refer the case back to the Court of Justice. In so doing, the Commission shall specify the amount of the lump sum or penalty payment to be paid by the Member State concerned which it considers appropriate in the circumstances. If the Court of Justice finds that the Member State concerned has not complied with its judgment it may impose a lump sum or a penalty payment on it.

The Commission has stated in its Communication dated 5 June 1996 concerning the implementation of Article 228 of the EC Treaty (O.J. No. C 242 of 21/8/96, p.6) that it considers that a penalty payment is the most appropriate instrument to secure compliance as rapidly as possible (point 4 of the Communication). The Commission has also published the method of calculating the penalty payments provided for pursuant to Article 228 of the EC Treaty in the Official Journal (O.J. No. 63 of 28/2/97, p.2); it is specified that for the purposes of calculating the penalty payment, the duration of the infringement runs from the date of the first Court judgment. (point 3.2).

Against this background, I would be grateful if by reference to the drinking water supplies cited in the proceedings, your authorities could inform me of the measures taken by Ireland to comply with the judgment of the European Court of Justice delivered on 14 November 2002. I would be pleased to receive this information within three months of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,

The signature block consists of three distinct handwritten marks in black ink. The top part features a large, dense, and somewhat circular scribble on the left, followed by a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line extending to the right. To the right of this line is another large, dense, circular scribble. Below these two main elements is a single, thick, horizontal black bar that spans a significant portion of the width of the signature area.