

Fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health

High-level session: “The Protocol on Water and Health:
catalysing sustainable development in the pan-European region”

Panel 2: Cooperating to ensure safe, sustainable and equitable water and sanitation services

Responding expert

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- Europe has achieved a lot in implementing the Protocol on Water and Health and SDG6, but more needs to be done.
- New challenges emerge putting at risk previous achievements. They include climate change and pollutants of emerging concern.
- Pollutants in water may require billions of investment in additional treatment steps to keep drinking water safe and healthy, and meet waste water treatment standards. This jeopardises the accessibility and affordability of water services.
- Some regions, such as the European Union, have the “precautionary principle”, the “control-at-source principle” and the “polluter-pays principle” enshrined in law. But even in those regions, the water consumer who bears most of the financial burden.
- EurEau calls on the Parties to implement a legislative framework that stops pollution at the source and, if it cannot be fully avoided, make producers responsible, including financially, for mitigation measures taken at other levels of the value chain.