European Green Deal and Water Policy for SDG 6 implementation in the EU

Marijana Mance, DG Environment
The European Green Deal

- Mobilising industry for a clean and circular economy
- Preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity
- Leave no one behind (Just Transition)
- Financing the transition
- A zero pollution ambition for a toxic-free environment
- A European Climate Pact
- The EU as a global leader

- Increasing the EU’s Climate ambition for 2030 and 2050
- Supplying clean, affordable and secure energy
- Mobilising research and fostering innovation
- From ‘Farm to Fork’: a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system
- Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way
- Accelerating the shift to sustainable and smart mobility
- Transforming the EU’s economy for a sustainable future
- And leave No one behind

- Methane strategy
- Energy systems integration strategy
- Circular Economy Action Plan 2.0
- Renovation wave
- Horizon2020 + ICT4Water
- Strategic Approach to Pharma in the environment
- Zero Pollution Action Plan for air, water & soil
- Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan
- Plastics Strategy
- Biodiversity Strategy
- Pharmaceuticals Strategy
- Farm to Fork Strategy
- Chemicals Strategy
- Pharmaceuticals Strategy
Latest developments in EU water policy contributing to water efficiency
Circular Economy Action Plan – 2020

• Key product value chains – Food, water, nutrients
  
  • “The new Water Reuse Regulation will encourage circular approaches to water reuse in agriculture. The Commission will facilitate water reuse and efficiency, including in industrial processes.”

  • “The Commission will also consider reviewing directives on wastewater treatment and sewage sludge […] “

• Circularity in production processes
  
State of play:

• In force since June 2020 – rules to apply as of 26 June 2023

Aim:

• To address water scarcity and drought, while safeguarding public health and the environment
• Great potential for reuse in the EU - from 1.1 bn m3/year in 2015 up to an estimated 6 bn m3/ year in 2025

Costs and benefits:

• estimated investments ≤ EUR 700 m for treating over 6.6 bn m³ water /year at a cost of ≤ EUR 0.5/m³
• estimated 5% - 10% reduction in water scarcity
Main provisions

• The Regulation introduces **minimum requirements** for water reuse in agricultural irrigation:

  1) Parametric values for quality of reclaimed water & monitoring requirements (Annex I) – addressing **HEALTH** risks

  2) Key risk management elements (Annex II) – addressing **ENVIRONMENTAL** risks & potential additional health risks

• Introduces requirements to develop a **risk management plan** for each water reuse project to ensure safety (both health and environment)

• Introduces a **system of permits** and compliance checks

• Fosters **transparency** and access to information
Objective: “Protection of the environment from the adverse effects of the discharges of untreated waste water”

Collection
- Agglomerations > 2,000 p.e. population equivalent
- Alternative: Individual or other appropriate systems (IAS)

Treatment
- Secondary (biological) treatment as a rule
- Agglomerations > 10 000 p.e. discharging into sensitive areas = nutrient removal (More Stringent Treatment)

Monitoring and reporting
- Treatment plants level of treatment and performance
- Biennial reporting to the European Commission
Considerations in a review of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

**Remaining pollution from urban sources**
- Urban run-off, stormwater
- Individual Appropriate Systems
- Small agglomerations
- Nitrogen & Phosphorus
- Micro-pollutants

**New challenges**
- GHG emissions
- Energy use
- Sludge
- Health

**Modernisation and Governance**
- Transparency
- Reporting
- Affordability, producer responsibility
- Access to sanitation

Modernisation and Governance

GHG emissions

Energy use

Sludge

Health

Transparency

Reporting

Affordability, producer responsibility

Access to sanitation
UN 2023 Water Conference – EU input

- Strengthening Water Governance at all levels
- Water and sanitation – A human right and enabler for peaceful, healthy, inclusive and resilient societies
- Water, climate change and energy
- Ensuring food security in harmony with nature while delivering on Paris Agreement
- Enhancing tools for effective implementation of water policies and strategies
Thank you!