



# Land-based sources and activities: addressing urban pollution

## Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive

UNECE workshop  
14 December 2022

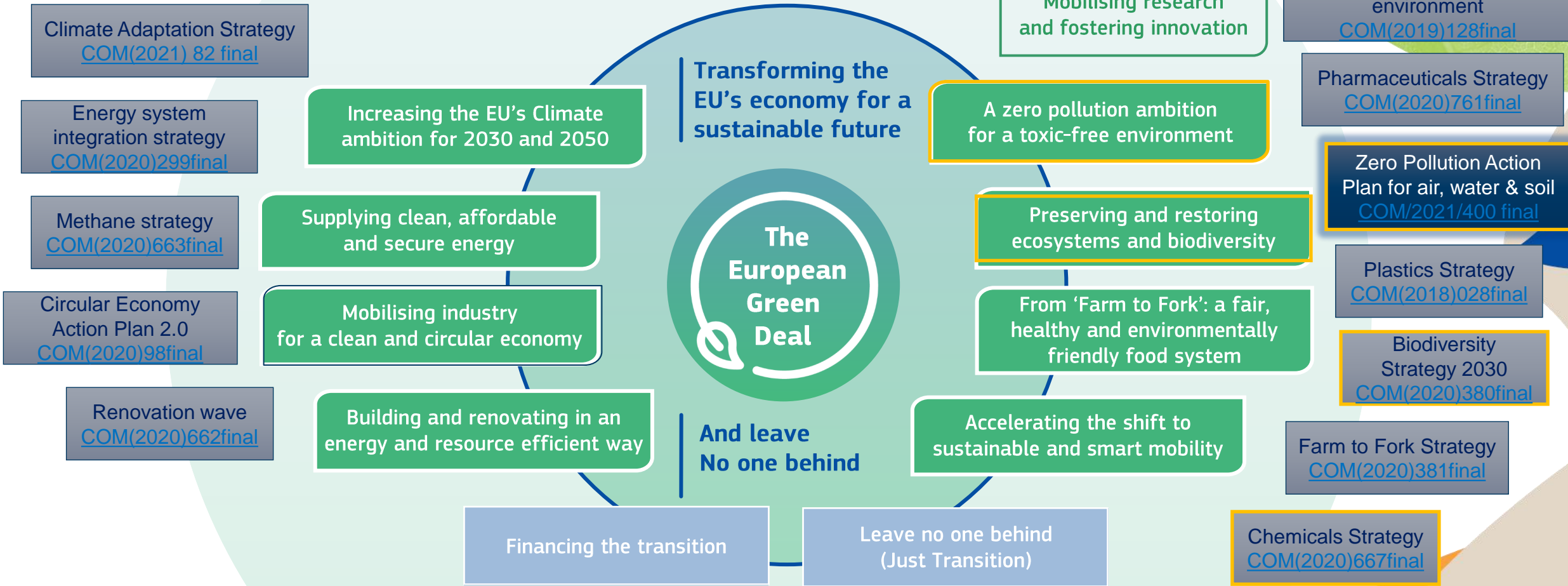


*Trudy Higgins  
Directorate General for the Environment*

# The European Green Deal

## COM(2019)640final

Horizon Europe  
2021-27



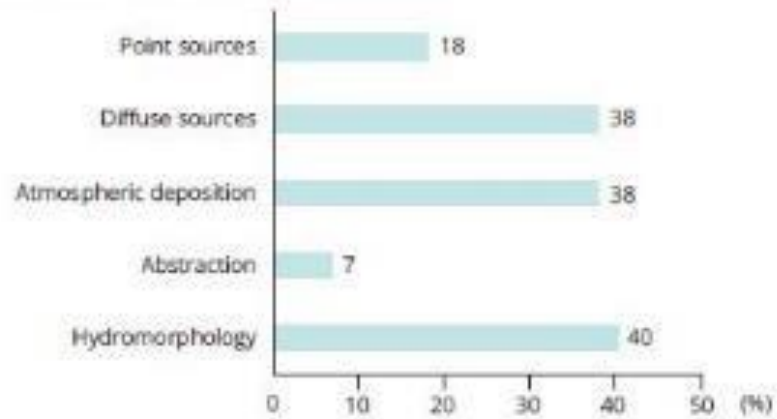
The EU as a global leader

A European Climate Pact

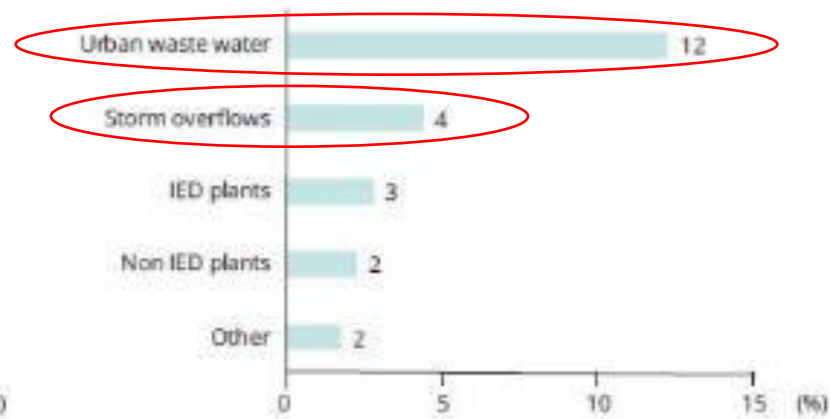


# Water Framework Directive pressures (2<sup>nd</sup> RBMPs)

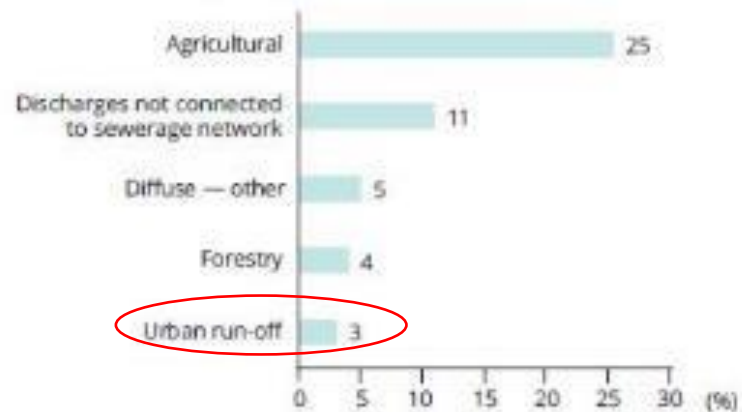
a) Significant pressures 2nd RBMPs



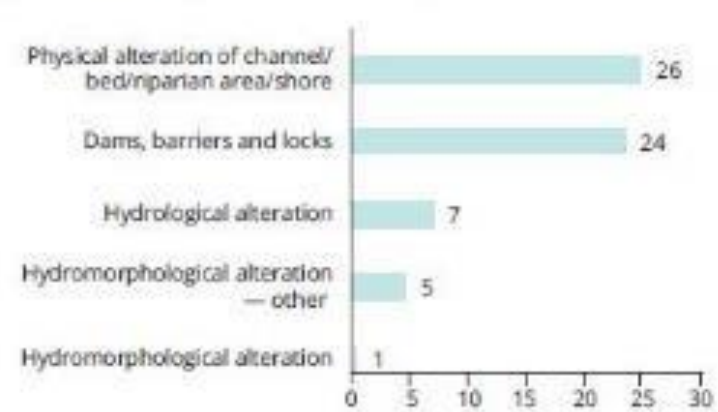
b) Point source pollution pressures 2nd RBMPs



c) Diffuse source pollution pressures 2nd RBMPs

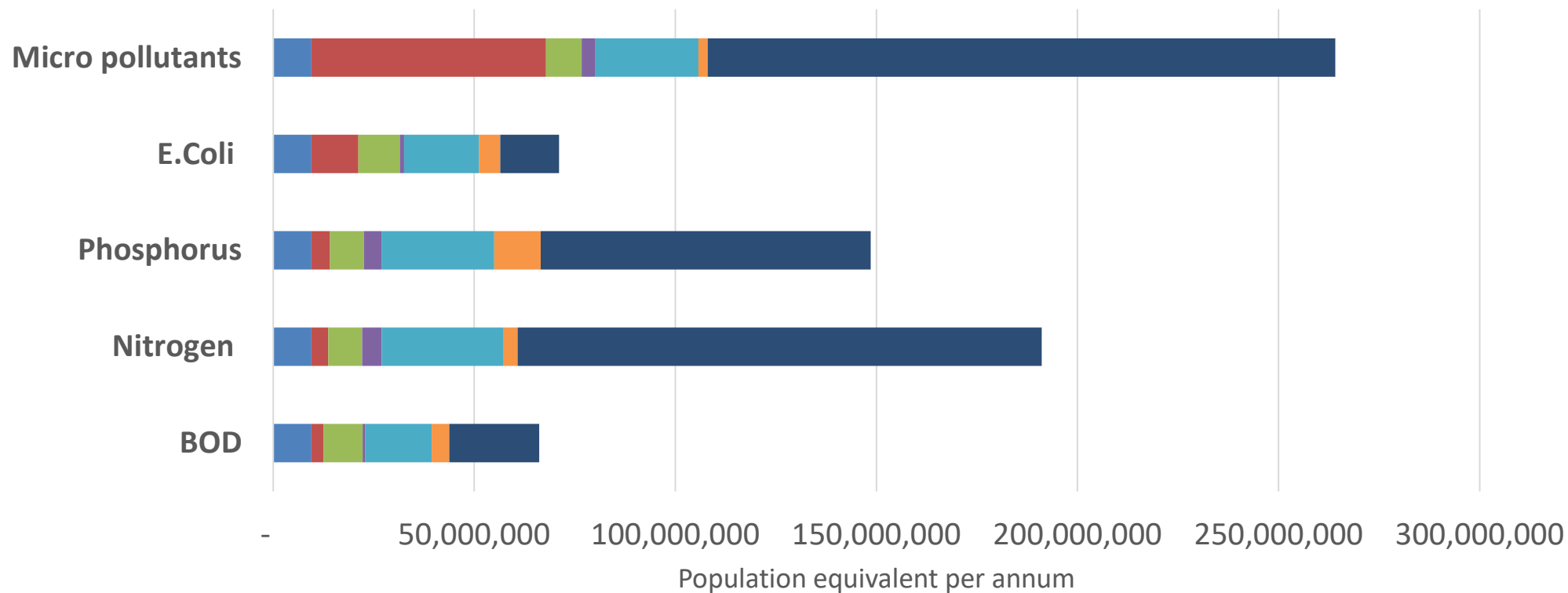


d) Hydromorphological pressures 2nd RBMPs



Source: EEA (2018) [European waters – assessment of status and pressures 2018](#)

# Aquatic pollution from urban sources



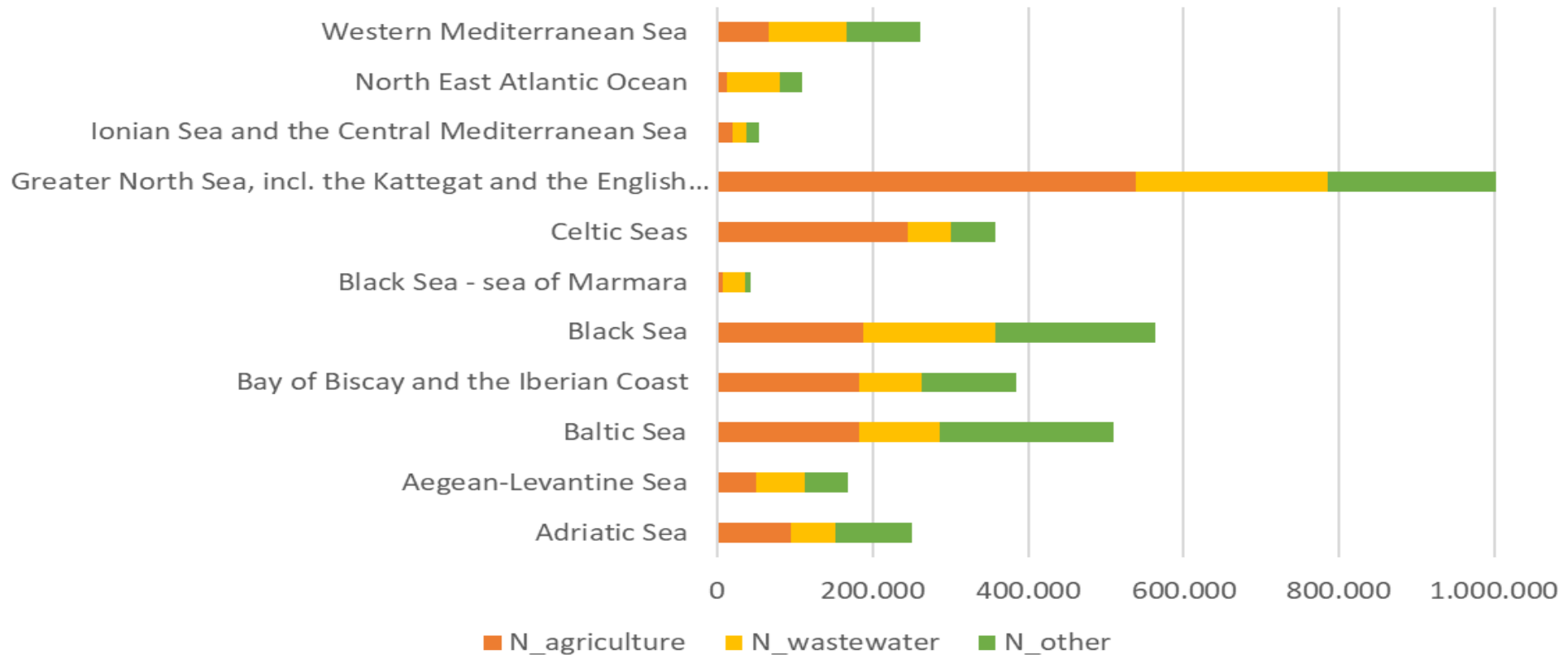
- SWO
- Urban run off
- Non Compliant IAS
- Compliant IAS
- Small Agglo
- Non compliant load
- Remaining compliant treated load

SWO: storm water overflow IAS: Individual system  
 Non-compliant: refers to compliance with the current Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

**Source:** European Commission (JRC), 2022, [UWWTD IA](#)

# Role of urban waste water in nutrient pollution

## Loads of N (tonnes/year) to EU regional seas by source



**Source:** European Commission (JRC), 2019, [The effects of the UWWTD](#)

# Proposal for revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD)

## Lessons learnt

Effective tool –  
Tangible impacts

Simple and targeted  
instrument

Carrot and stick

Benefits >>> costs

## Room for improvement

Remaining pollution

New challenges

Governance –  
transparency / reporting



## Purpose of revision:

1. Modernise the Directive
2. Align to current and future societal needs
3. Adapting to objectives of the **European Green Deal** and of a **Europe fit for the Digital Age**

For further information on the proposed revision: [Urban wastewater \(europa.eu\)](https://european-council.europa.eu/media/en/press-room/pages/press-room.aspx?storyId=19200)

# 3 main pillars of the proposed revision of the UWWTD

## Water quality

- More extensive nutrient removal
- Treatment of micro pollutants
- Integrated approach on storm water
- Scope from 1000 inhabitants
- Risk based approach

## Green Deal

- Energy neutrality
- Systematic GHG monitoring
- Non-domestic pollution tracked at source
- Water, sludge and Phosphorus re-use incentivised

## Governance

- Health parameters
- Access to sanitation
- Key performance indicators
- Extended Producer Responsibility (cosmetics and pharmaceuticals)

For further information on the proposed revision: [Urban wastewater \(europa.eu\)](https://urbanwastewater.europa.eu)

# UWWTD: What is proposed regarding nutrients

## Risk based approach

- N & P treatment > 100.000 p.e. (2035)
- N/P treatment > 10.000 p.e. in designated areas (2040)

## Areas sensitive to eutrophication

- Revised list by 2025
- Revised criteria
- Better connection with WFD and MSFD

## Revised standards

- New standards for N/P (2035 > 100.000 pe, 2040 > 10.000 pe)
- % reduction still possible

For further information on the proposed revision: [Urban wastewater \(europa.eu\)](https://europea.eu)



# UWWTD: What is proposed regarding micropollutants

## Risk based approach

- All facilities > 100.000 p.e. (2035)
- Facilities > 10.000 p.e. in areas at risk (2040)

## Areas at risk

- List of areas by 2030
- Clear criteria

## Standards

- 80% removal of 6 substances, from a list of 12

For further information on the proposed revision: [Urban wastewater \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)



## MEMBER STATES' **GOALS**

- **define** when **Good Environmental Status (GES)** is reached for **11 descriptors**
- **assess and monitor** the status of **each descriptor** in their **marine waters**
- **set specific targets to reduce pressures and impacts** from human activities
- **Identify and implement actions** to ensure GES

**For further information:** [Law - EU Coastal and Marine Policy - Environment - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eu-coastal-marine-policy/)

Thank you!