



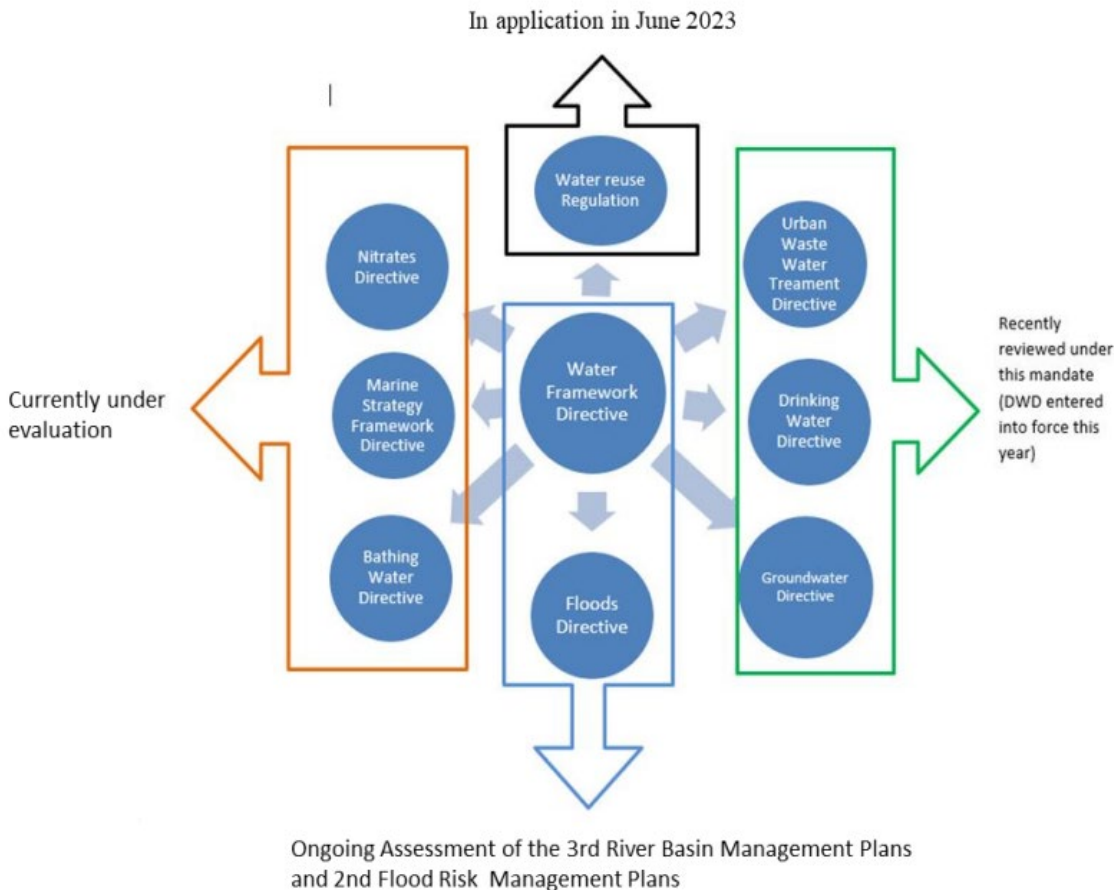
EU Water Policy – Latest developments

UNECE WG on Assessment & Monitoring
17 October 2023

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European Water Policy



Recast Drinking Water Directive (EU 2020/2184)

- MS had 2Ys from the entry to force (12 Jan 2021) to transpose and to comply with provisions – **12 January 2023**

Water Reuse Regulation (EU)2020/741 – 26 June 2023

- water reuse in agricultural irrigation – **fit for purpose** (water quality requirements – HEALTH risks)
- **Risk management plan** (ENV & additional HEALTH risks)
- **Permitting, compliance and transparency**

UWWTD (91/271/EEC) – under review

- **NEW:** The objectives to be extended (beyond ENV protection, to also include the protection of human health and **the reduction of GHG emissions**); pollution from **small agglomerations**; the application of **tertiary treatment** in larger plants (150,000 p.e.), an additional treatment (**'quaternary treatment'**) removing a broad spectrum of **micropollutants**, Extended Producer Responsibility, **wastewater surveillance and risk assessment**
- **Negotiations ongoing**

Recast Drinking Water Directive

OBJECTIVES

- To **protect human health** by ensuring the quality of water intended for human consumption
- To **improve access to water** intended for human consumption



NEW

- **Update existing safety standards + 'watch-list'** mechanism (substances of emerging concern)
- Introduction of **'risk-based approach'** (RBA) covering whole supply chain
- **Access to water:** obligation for MS to improve or maintain access to safe drinking water for all, in particular to **vulnerable and marginalised groups**
- **More transparency** for consumers on water quality + suppliers' efficiency and effectiveness and measures for their improvement (water leakage levels)
- **Provisions on substances/materials in contact with DW** (prevent migration of hazardous substances)



Integrated Water Management

Revision of lists of
Surface Water and Groundwater Polluting Substances
(revision of WFD, GWD and EQSD)

Proposal adopted on 26 October 2022

https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/proposal-amending-water-directives_en

Main objectives

Better protect health and the environment

Update list of surface & groundwater pollutants with new substances of concern – set standards
This implies monitoring compliance and measures to reduce / phase out emissions

Improve knowledge on water quality

Provide more accurate, complete and up-to-date information on water quality
Introduce effect-based monitoring
Consider seasonal effects when monitoring substances on the watch list
Allow novel monitoring techniques (e.g. remote sensing)
Ensure continuous scientific support from ECHA

Simplify and create a more dynamic framework

Create a more flexible framework for addressing pollutants of emerging concern such as microplastics and antimicrobial resistance genes
Delegated acts procedure instead of ordinary legislative procedure
Simplified reporting on emissions and programmes of measures

Thank you

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