

Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment Commission adopts Communication with set of actions addressing the multifaceted challenges that the release of pharmaceuticals poses to the environment.

Pharmaceuticals discarded in the environment have been shown to pose a risk to fish or other wildlife, for example by affecting their ability to reproduce, by altering their behaviour in ways jeopardising their survival, or through direct toxic effects. In addition, incorrectly disposed medicines may contribute to the serious problem of antimicrobial resistance. Increased awareness has prompted further investigation, as well as calls and proposals for action to reduce emissions to the environment, in particular to water but also to soil.

EU legislation in 2013 required the Commission to develop a strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment, including proposals for measures, where appropriate, to address the possible impacts.

On 11 March 2019 the European Commission adopted a Communication "Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment" outlining a set of actions addressing the multifaceted challenges that the release of pharmaceuticals poses to the environment.