

Newsletter Issue 5/2025

EU Reaches Agreement on Water Pollution Standards

The European Parliament and Council have reached a provisional agreement to update the EU's water legislation, marking a significant step toward cleaner groundwater and surface waters. The revised directive expands the list of priority pollutants to include PFAS, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and industrial substances like bisphenol-A, while introducing watch lists for emerging contaminants such as microplastics and antimicrobial resistance indicators.

Key measures include:

- Stricter environmental quality standards and enhanced monitoring protocols.
- Introduction of effect-based monitoring for estrogenic substances.
- Provisions for a joint EU monitoring facility to support member states.
- Evaluation of extended producer responsibility to help fund monitoring efforts.
- Strengthened access to justice for citizens and NGOs under the Aarhus Convention.

Member states must comply with new standards by 2039, with phased deadlines for specific substances and a transposition deadline of December 2027. The European Commission welcomed the agreement as a vital contribution to the EU's zero pollution ambition

Press release: [Commission](#) – [Council](#) - [Parliament](#)