

Reaction from the European Water Association (EWA) to the Fitness Check of the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive

The European Water Association (EWA) is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit making organization dealing with the management and improvement of the water environment. With member associations from nearly all European countries, EWA is one of the major professional associations in Europe that covers the whole water sector, wastewater as well as drinking water and water related waste.

Through EWA more than 22 countries are involved in and dedicated to implementing and developing the Water Framework Directive (WFD). EWA agrees that problems remain throughout Europe and that there is still much work to be done, and thus welcomes the promise that various EU funds will continue to support the implementation efforts. It is however, reassuring and positive to see that improvements are gradually taken place, and EWA, as well as the Member States which EWA represents, is committed to secure the achievement of the WFD objectives.

EWA's main concerns and suggestions to solutions are summarized in the following eight statements:

1. Ensuring continuation of the WFD, also after 2027
2. Creating reliable foundations for water management – the need for interim targets
3. Implementing the “one out – all out” principle
4. Clarifying the non-deterioration principle
5. Needing to address all sources of pollution
6. Monitoring
7. Evaluating the effectiveness of the “phasing out” obligation
8. Harmonizing WFD with other European regulations

For a full understanding of the eight statements above and on EWA's position to the WFD, we hereby invite you to read the [“EWA Position on the Water Framework Directive 2019”](#).