



Joint letter

Subject: Safeguarding Europe's Water Resilience – Ensure Legal Security and Effective Implementation of the Water Acquis

European Commission Vice-President Teresa Ribera, Commissioner Jessika Roswall, Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis and Commission Secretary-General Juhansone,

We are writing to you as associations representing the water sector to urge the European Commission **not to include water-related legislative provisions in the forthcoming Environmental Omnibus package, especially related to the Water Framework Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive Recast (UWWTD), and the water-related provisions within the Industrial Emissions Directive.**

Europe faces unprecedented water challenges—scarcity, droughts, floods, and increasing pollution—requiring **stability and clarity in the legal framework**. The Water Framework Directive (WFD), together with the recent recast of the UWWTD, forms the backbone of Europe's water resilience strategy. These instruments are still in the process of transposition and implementation. Altering them now would create uncertainty, undermine investments, and weaken progress toward resilience and sustainability. In particular, any delays for the implementation of the extended producer responsibility schemes in the UWWTD would jeopardise investments in quaternary treatment.

Water is fundamental to **public health and the welfare of European citizens**. Ensuring safe and clean water underpins disease prevention, food safety, and overall societal resilience. Frequent changes risk delaying critical measures such as micro pollution treatment, deployment and new projects—both essential to protect public health, biodiversity, and the entire water cycle.

Moreover, the **Competitiveness Compass** highlights water as a strategic resource for Europe's economic security. Delivering on this priority demands **consistent legislation**, enabling stakeholders to invest and innovate confidently. Therefore, water-related provisions in the Industrial Emissions Directive should be maintained, allowing the economic actors to assess their water dependence and risks to sustain and secure their activities through investments.

We support simplification and digitalisation of permitting processes and data collection to reduce administrative burdens without compromising environmental objectives. However, this must occur within the existing framework, not through disruptive revisions. **Achieving water resilience will depend on enhanced implementation of the comprehensive EU water acquis.**

We therefore call on the Commission to:

- Exclude the UWWTD, the WFD and the water efficiency provision of the IED from the upcoming and any subsequent Environmental Omnibus regulations.
- Focus on supporting implementation of current directives and the Water Resilience Strategy.

- Safeguard progress by ensuring a clear, predictable regulatory environment.

Water is vital for Europe's future as Europe's prosperity depends on water and only a stable regulatory environment can safeguard our progress.

Yours sincerely,

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