

Newsletter Issue 2/2026

Europe's Waterways Under Threat from Mining Lobby

According to DeSmog, the EU's Water Framework Directive (WFD) has become a focal point of intensified mining-sector lobbying, with industry meetings with EU officials **tripling** ahead of the Commission's **ResourceEU Action Plan**—published in December—which pledged to “review and revise” the WFD. Critics fear a revision could dilute water protections, while the Commission says it aims to make the law “more efficient and impactful” and may consider legislative changes to promote circularity and access to critical raw materials while protecting health and the environment.

The timeline is tight, with guidance on the revision due by the **end of March** and potential changes targeted by **end-June 2026**. NGOs and Greens MEP Jutta Paulus warn that expanding exemptions could fast-track polluting projects and send a negative signal about the EU's environmental standards.

Source : <https://www.desmog.com/2026/03/10/europes-waterways-under-threat-from-mining-lobby/>