

Newsletter Issue 2/2026

Final agreement on the WFD-GWD-EQSD revision

On Thursday last week, MEPs gave the final green light to new measures aimed at reducing groundwater and surface waters pollution and improving EU water quality standards.

The legislation updates the lists of pollutants that need to be monitored and controlled, by adding PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as “forever chemicals”), pharmaceuticals (such as painkillers), industrial substances and pesticides. Several pollutants already included will now be subject to tighter environmental quality standards.

The law will now be signed by both co-legislators, ahead of its publication in the EU Official Journal. It will enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication. EU countries will have until 21 December 2027 to make their national rules comply with the provisions of this directive.

Source: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20260323IPR38828/parliament-adopts-more-stringent-rules-to-reduce-water-pollution>