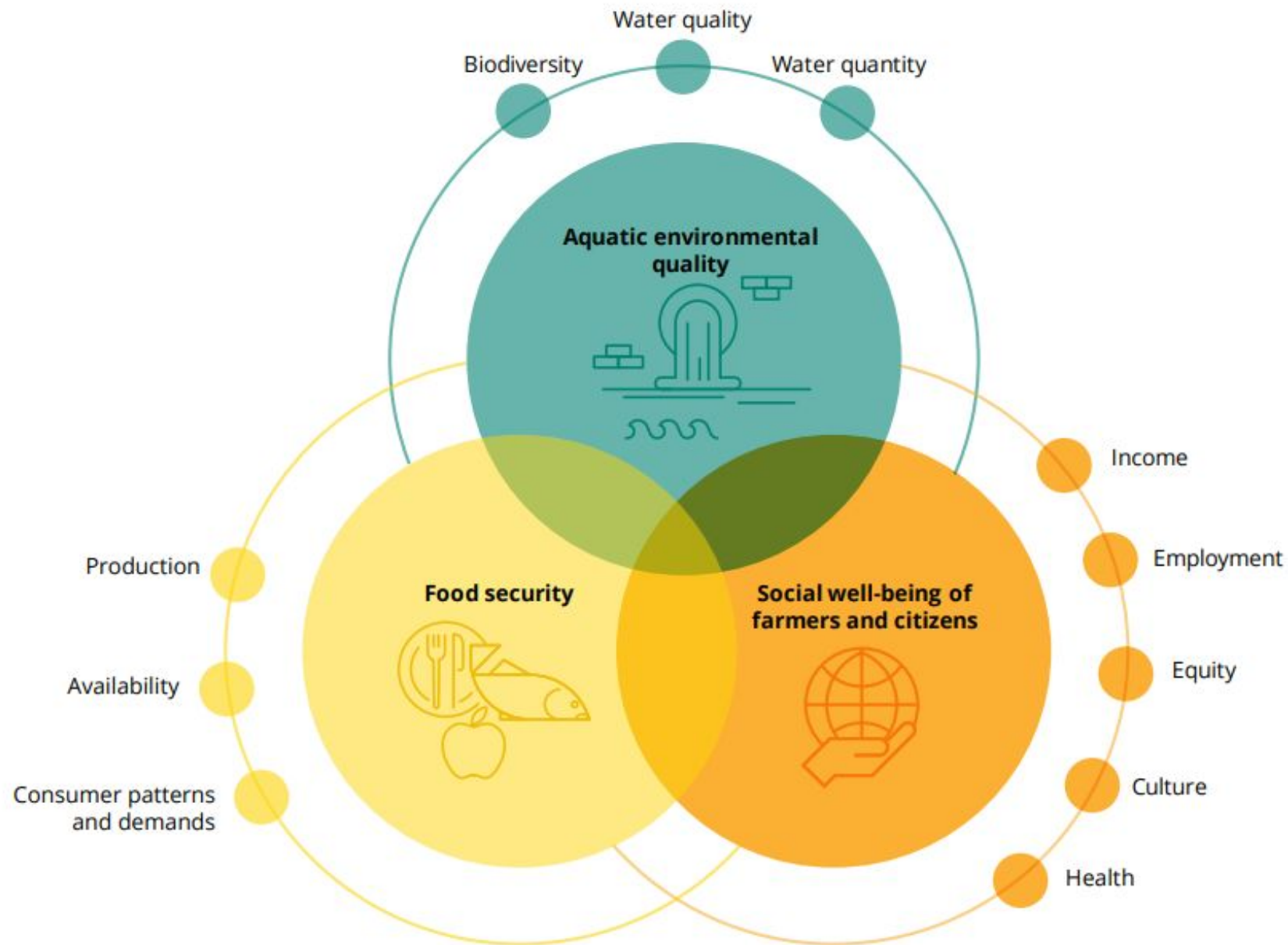




# EU Water Resilience Strategy: *The WEFE Nexus*

*Joachim D'Eugenio, Policy Adviser for Zero Pollution, Water Resilience and Green Urban Transition, DG Environment, European Commission*



Source: EEA (2017b).

**Jessika Roswall**

Commissioner for Environment, Water  
Resilience and a Competitive Circular  
Economy



**Keynote speech – 6 March**

**2025**  
**Water is under enormous pressure today.** Climate change means that this pressure will only grow – even if we achieve net-zero already tomorrow.

**This is why we need a clear and bold vision for water resilience.**

**In agriculture** we should **improve our water use** for irrigation and **scale up innovative projects** that exist in the sector. And we can reduce the need for irrigation altogether by **taking much better care of our soil**. By for example facilitating use of bio-solutions.



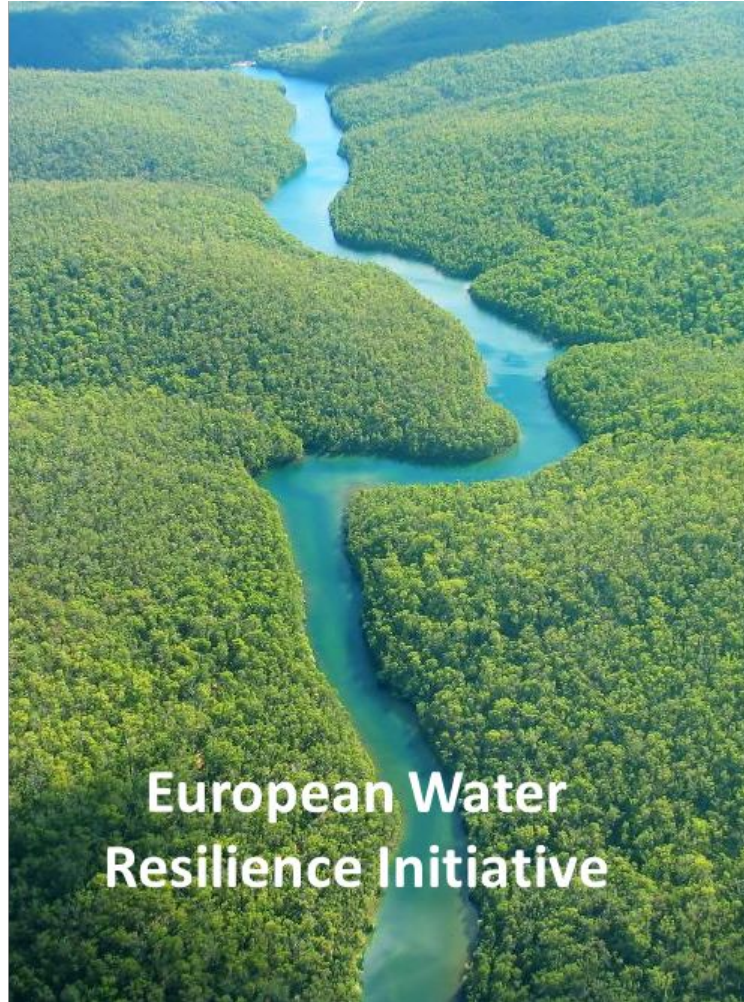
# Vision for Agriculture and Food (COM(2025) 75)



## Objective:

Agriculture “...is functioning **within planetary boundaries**, where farming and the food sector contribute together to the EU’s climate objectives, while preserving healthy soils, **clean water** and air, and protecting and restoring Europe’s biodiversity. Stakeholders along the food chain **contribute jointly to delivering these results** and share transition risks. All segments of the **agri-food system are much better prepared** to withstand the effects of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, **use natural resources sustainably and efficiently** and operate in line with a One Health approach.”

# EU Water Resilience Strategy



- The **Water – Food – Energy - Ecosystems** Nexus is crucial
- We need to think the **green and digital transition** together with water resilience
- We can significantly increase **water saving** and **water efficiency**
- Factor in **water resilience** in future **CAP Strategic Plans** (e.g. precision farming and drip irrigation, that enhance water efficiency, circularity, improve water retention, curbing nutrient and pesticides pollution)
- We must **implement** and keep up to date the **EU Water Acquis**

# Water Framework Directive implementation

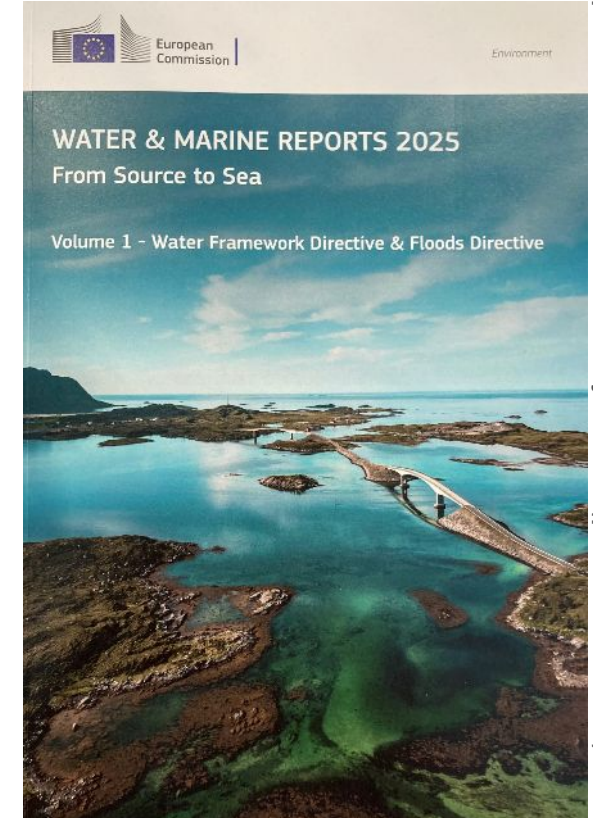
(see (COM(2025) 2)

- **Financing:** Planned measures have not been implemented and available EU funds have not been used.
- **Governance:** Integration of WFD river basin planning has not been sufficiently integrated into other sector planning (e.g. agriculture, energy)

## Commission Recommendation

All Member States should **increase investment** and ensure adequate financing to effectively implement the PoMs to reach the objectives. This involves in particular:

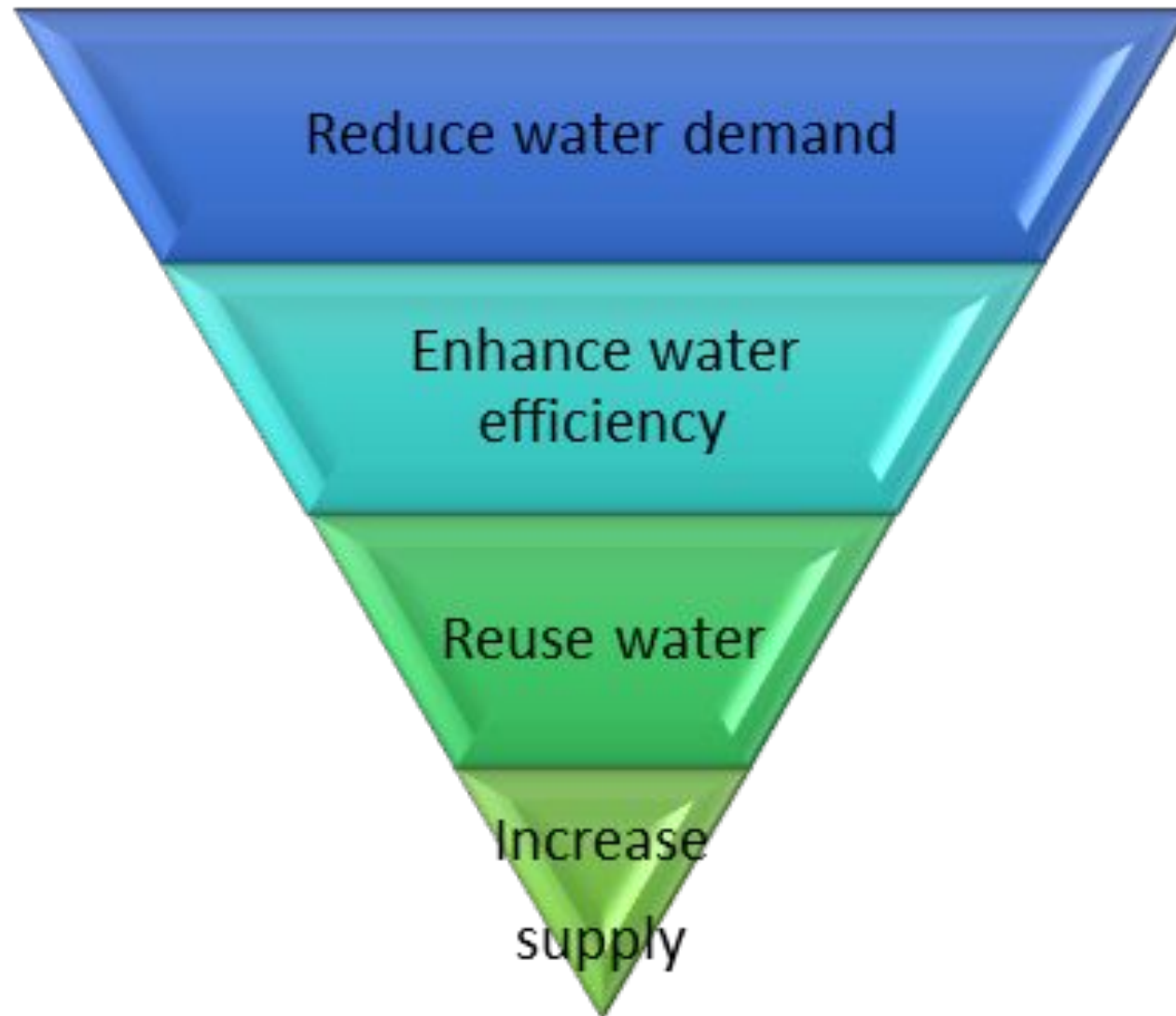
- a. **developing long-term investment plans** and clearly identifying the source of financing for each measure, including the effective use of EU funding;
- b. strengthening efforts to **fully apply the cost recovery principle** for water services so that all key water-users and water use sectors provide an adequate contribution to the water services costs;
- c. **making better and wider use of the ‘polluter-pays principle’**, eliminating harmful environmental subsidies and ensuring affordable, just and fair pricing mechanisms for all water users in line with Article 9 WFD.



Commission assessment of 3<sup>rd</sup> River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) & 2<sup>nd</sup> Flood Risk Management Plans published on 4 February 2025 (press release)



# Water Efficiency – hierarchy of action



# Conclusions



- It is **time to act now** at all levels to address water resilience
- The **policy framework is largely set**, we now **need to implement** it on the ground
- **Mainstream water resilience** in all sectors and **plan ahead** for emergencies
- Huge potential for **clean and water resilient technologies**

**River basin cooperation remains at the heart of the solutions!**





# Our way ahead to a water resilient and toxic free environment

## Thank you



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