



EU Water Resilience Strategy: *Situation and perspective*

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Water – increasing attention



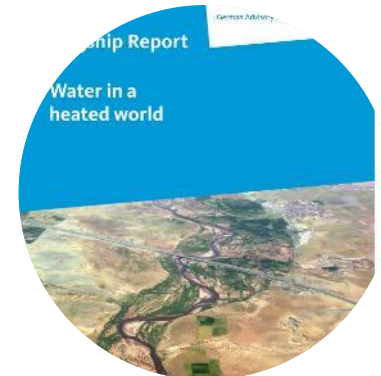
Global Commission on the Economics of Water (2024) “Valuing the Hydrological Cycle as a Global Common Good”



Global Water Monitor “2024 Summary Report”



Report of Enrico Letta (2024) “Much more than a market...”



WBGU – German Advisory Council on Global Change (2025) “Water in a Heated World”

Climate change increases man-made pressures



Floods: 7.8 bn/year (river flooding) and 1.4 bn/year (coastal flooding)

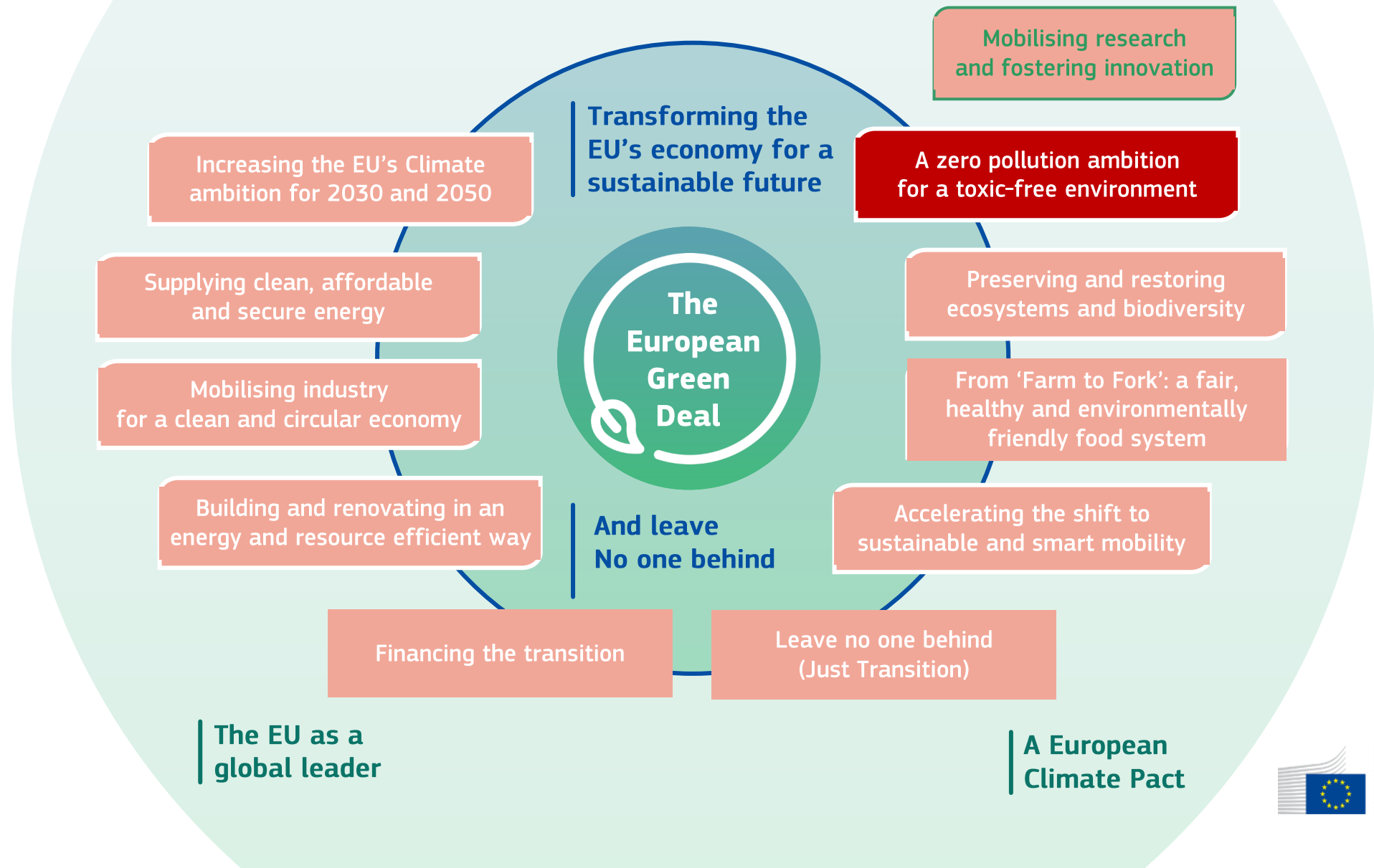
Droughts: € 9 bn / year (but in extreme years like 2022 up to € 40 !)

Water Scarcity:

Occurs every year irrespective of droughts. Water scarcity affects

29% of EU territory
34% of EU population

The European Green Deal – zero pollution & water everywhere



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.

The ***success of our industrial and digital strategies*** depends on ***access to clean water*** as much as it depends on access to affordable energy. This is why I was happy that water was mentioned prominently in the EU's ***Competitiveness Compass...***”

Jessika Roswall

Commissioner for Environment, Water
Resilience and a Competitive Circular
Economy



Keynote speech – 3 March 2025

*“The path is clear: **implementation, integration, international** cooperation, **investments** and **innovation**.”*

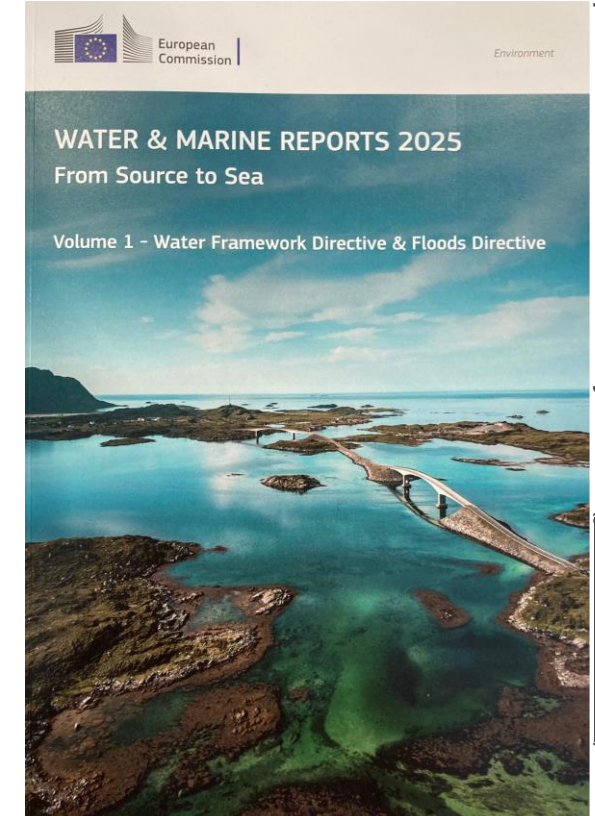
It is time to deliver.** Zero pollution once seemed like a dream—**today, it is within reach.

*With just one generation until 2050, **we must move fast and together.** Science, policy, industry, civil society and people all have a role to play.”*

Water Framework Directive implementation

General Commission Recommendations (see (COM(2025) 2)

- Increase **level of ambition** and **accelerate action** to reduce the **compliance gap** as much as possible by 2027;
- Increase **investments** and ensure **adequate financing**;
- Identify and put in place supplementary and other **additional measures** including **nature-based solutions** and **restoration**;
- Address **water scarcity** through better **climate-proofing** in river basin management, establish **water balances**, **water-reuse & efficiency** also through **nature-based solutions**
- Improving the work on **transboundary cooperation** through **international River Basin Management** (also on quantitative aspects)
- Restrictive interpretation (and application) of the **exemptions**
- Further **close knowledge gaps** and **improve data availability**, access to data and data quality
- Proactively implement **new instruments** (e.g. Nature Restoration Law)



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

Zero Pollution – implementation of key legislative actions



Air & Noise

- Revised **Ambient Air Quality Directive**
- Revised **Industrial Emissions Directive** and **Industrial Emissions Register Regulation**
- New emission limit values for motor vehicles (**EURO7**)
- Implementation Report of **Environmental Noise Directive**
- Evaluation of the **National Emissions-reduction Commitment Directive**



Water & Marine

- Revised **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**
- Revised **Drinking Water Directive**
- Ongoing revision of **water pollutants list**
- Evaluations of the **Marine Strategy Framework Directive** and of the **Bathing Water Directive**
- Implementation Reports on **Water Framework, Floods and Marine Directives**



Soil

- Ongoing negotiations on the new **Soil Monitoring Directive**
- New **Nature Restoration Law**
- Existing **Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive**
- Evaluation of the **Nitrates Directive**



Products & waste

- New **Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation**
- Revised **Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive**
- Revision of the **Mercury Regulation**
- Revised **Waste Shipment Regulation**
- Ongoing negotiations on pellets proposal reducing **microplastics** pollution
- Ongoing negotiations on '**one substance, one assessment**'

Relevant new initiatives



European Water
Resilience Initiative



Vision for Agriculture and
Food



Chemicals Industry
Package including PFAS



Circular Economy Act

Key messages



- The water crisis is NOT the result of **climate change** ONLY
- See **water quality and quantity** as two sides of the same coin
- We can significantly increase **water saving** and **water efficiency**
- The **Water – Food – Energy – Ecosystems** Nexus is crucial
- Repair the broken water cycle through a **Source to Sea** approach
- We must **implement** and keep up to date the **EU Water Acquis**

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**

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

Thank you



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