



EurEau

Water matters!

The European water sector wants **you** to guarantee our water heritage



Water is life. We need sufficient quantities of quality water for good **health**, clean environments and functioning economies.

The European water services sector delivers and **treats over 44.7 billion m³ of water annually**, protecting the environment every step of the way!

Water operators, represented by EurEau, are committed to delivering clean drinking water and treating waste water so that it can be safely returned to the environment, while recovering resources... and all at an affordable price!

EurEau represents public and private drinking and waste water operators from across Europe. Our sector employs **476.000 people**.

We can see the success of EU water policy around us through cleaner bathing water, more life in our rivers and lakes, and every time we enjoy a glass of tap water. However, we are facing big challenges.

More needs to be done to protect and conserve our water resources and the **environment** since water is under pressure from many sources of pollution. In 2018, only 40% of our surface water bodies achieved good ecological status. At the same time, 25% of our ground water reservoirs showed some contamination.

We need the Control at Source Principle to be properly implemented to prevent pollutants entering our water systems. Polluters must pay to mitigate the pollution they are responsible for.

Ageing water service infrastructure and climate change will require far-reaching adjustment measures and long term **investments** at all levels.

All these challenges will impact our water resources, how we approach drinking and waste water treatment as well as the affordability of water services.

We need a holistic approach comprising European, national and local action to address each of these challenges effectively. Policies should be coordinated, and existing principles, as enshrined in the EU treaties, fully implemented. Because while water is invaluable, it has to remain affordable.

Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union

"... Union policy on the environment... shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that **preventive action should be taken, that environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source and that the polluter should pay.**"

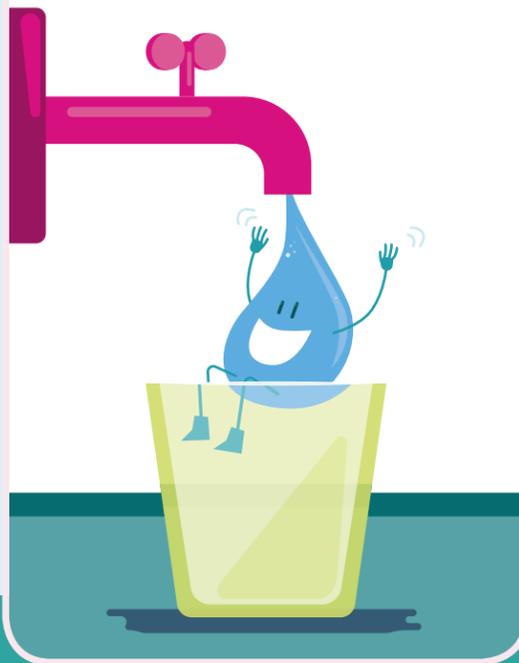
Over the next five years, you will be asked to vote on important pieces of legislation that protect the environment and ensure that more than 510 million consumers continue to have access to safe water, now and for future generations.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

A robust Water Framework Directive, including the Groundwater and Environmental Quality Standards Directives, protects our water resources and the environment, keeping our groundwater, rivers and lakes free from pollution. We want policies that reflect the Cost Recovery Principle. The directive's ambitions should be maintained after 2027 and the communication of progress should be improved. All EU legislation or policies – particularly on nitrates, pesticides and REACH – need to be better coordinated and implemented.

DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE

Water is essential for life. Our drinking water should remain of high quality and affordable for everyone. Operators advocate for the protection of water resources in order to reduce the level of purification treatment required in the production of drinking water and related costs for consumers.



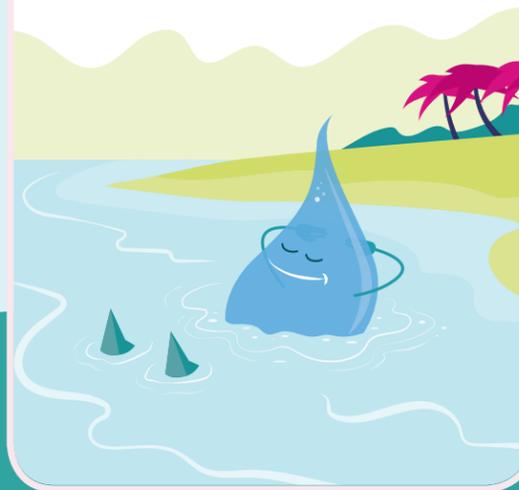
URBAN WASTE WATER TREATMENT DIRECTIVE

How we treat our waste water impacts greatly on the quality of water resources. Contaminants must be prevented from entering sewers through the strict application of the Control at Source Principle in order to keep water affordable. This will also facilitate resource recovery and the Circular Economy, for which the EU needs to open the market to recovered materials. If pollutants do enter the water cycle the Polluter Pays Principle must be applied.



BATHING WATER DIRECTIVE

Clean bathing water is good for health, is necessary for our environment and promotes tourism. The quality of our waste water services has a direct impact on all this. The directive is a good example of successful implementation and will continue to deliver tangible results for years to come.



WATER REUSE REGULATION

The reuse of treated waste water reduces water scarcity and will be increasingly important in a changing climate. We want appropriate and affordable quality standards so that reclaimed water can be used in agricultural irrigation. This guarantees consumer protection and offers sustainable water management options to keep resources for drinking water production.



COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

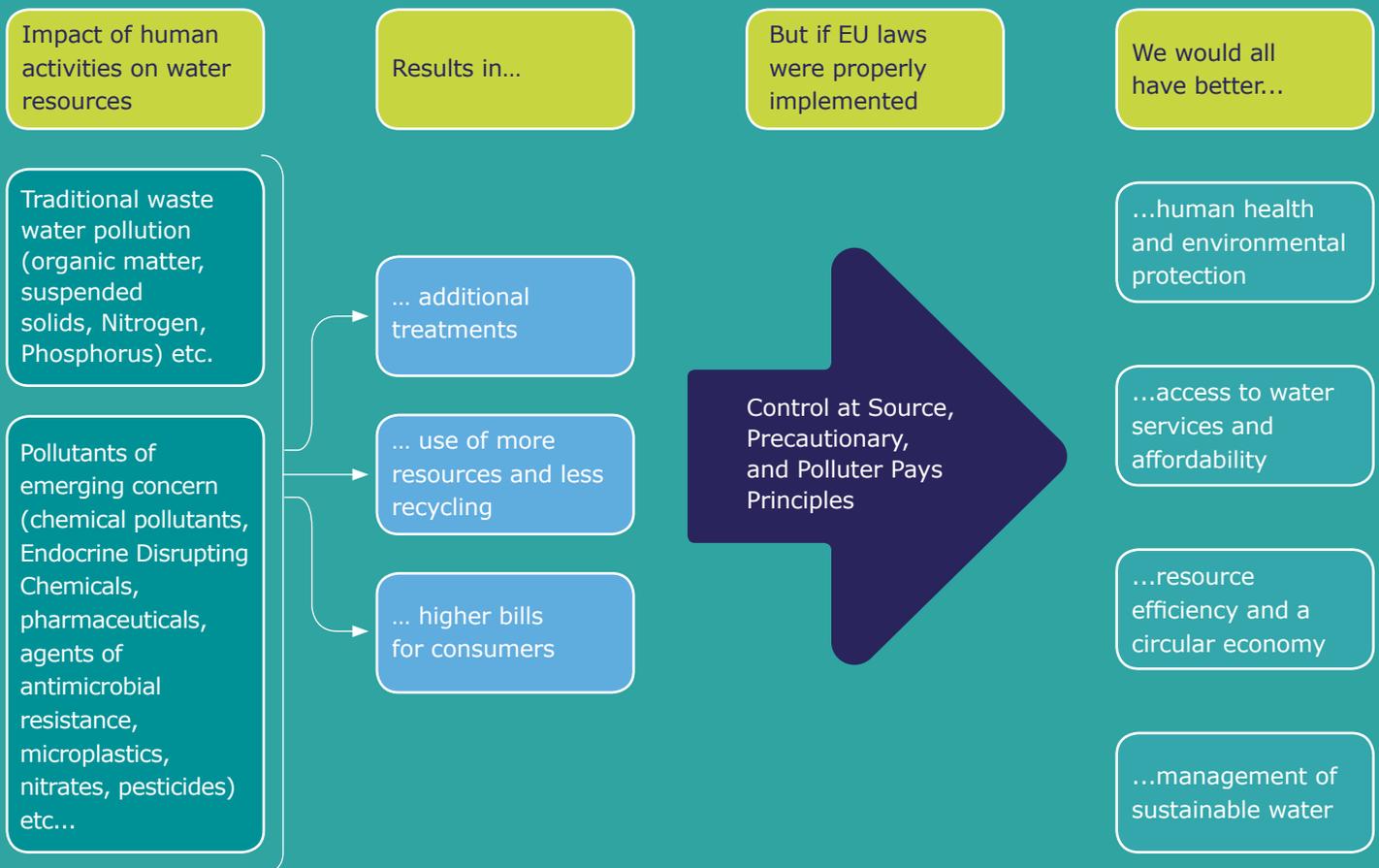
Agriculture and water are intrinsically linked, and both impact each other. The Common Agricultural Policy should contribute to keeping our water resources free from agricultural pollution. Payments to farmers must be conditional on compliance with environmental legislation. Sustainability tools and ecoschemes must be made attractive to farmers.



10 big challenges for the water sector

- 1 Protecting a vulnerable resource
- 2 Fostering sustainable economic growth and creating jobs
- 3 The value of water in the circular economy
- 4 Source-control approach for micropollutants
- 5 Setting the right price for water
- 6 Growing impact of climate change on water
- 7 Resource efficiency in the water sector
- 8 Managing long-term assets in a fast changing environment
- 9 Increasing the public understanding of the water sector
- 10 Reinforcing the resilience of water services to security risks

How does it all fit together?



Strong, fit-for-purpose EU legislation, that is correctly implemented, is good for people, the economy and the environment.

EurEau. The European Federation of National Associations of Water Services.

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