

Public consultation on policy options to set minimum quality requirements for reused water in the EU

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

Europe's freshwater resources are under increasing stress, with a worrying mismatch between demand for, and availability of, water resources across both temporal and geographical (spatial) scales. Water stress is an issue for arid regions with low rainfall and high population density, but also for temperate areas with intense agricultural, tourism and industrial activities. Global climate change is already exacerbating these problems with projections indicating significant and widespread impacts over the medium to long term. Growing competition for water resources between different water using sectors is already emerging, while water resources need to be protected and reserved for drinking water supply and for the ecosystems with an appropriately high quality.

Europe's ability to respond to the increasing risks of water scarcity and drought could be enhanced by wider reuse of treated wastewater for agricultural, industrial and urban uses in particular. At present, most wastewater originating from urban waste water treatment plants is discharged into water bodies without taking advantage of water reuse solutions' potential. It has been pointed out that this may be due to the lack of common EU environmental/health standards for re-used water and the potential obstacles to the free movement of agricultural products irrigated with reused water.

The opportunity to take action at EU level with a view to increasing water reuse was identified in the 2012 Commission Communication "A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources" (COM(2012)673). On 2 December 2015, the European Commission presented the new circular economy package (cf. Communication "Closing the loop – An EU action plan for the circular economy" (COM(2015)614). It includes a number of actions to promote further uptake of water reuse at EU level, in particular as a measure to address water scarcity as an integral part of efficient water resources management and in addition to other water saving and efficiency measures. One of these actions is to table in 2017 a legislative proposal on minimum requirements for reused water for irrigation and groundwater recharge[1]. The development of this proposal has been subject of a number of studies[2] and will be subject to an Impact Assessment to evaluate the most suitable EU-level instrument/s to foster water reuse, while ensuring the health and environmental safety of water reuse practices and the free trade of food products. This Impact Assessment will focus on the reuse of treated wastewater covered by the Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment.

This internet-based consultation is part of the European Commission's efforts to understand the citizens' and stakeholders' views on the need for and possible range of measures which could be undertaken in order to foster safe water reuse solutions. A first consultation was organised in 2014 on the broader promotion of water reuse in the EU; its results[3] fed into the development of the action plan mentioned above. This second consultation focuses on the more detailed policy options to set minimum requirements for reused water for irrigation and groundwater recharge. The results will be used as an input for the preparation of the Impact Assessment.

The consultation runs from 28 October 2016 to 27 January 2017.

Please note that this consultation and its results do not prejudice in any way the final outcome and the form of any decision to be taken by the European Commission on this topic.

- [1] Inception impact assessment can be consulted at: http://ec.europa.eu/smart-regulation/roadmaps/docs/2017_env_006_water_reuse_instrument_en.pdf
- [2] <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/reuse.htm>
- [3] Report accessible at: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/pdf/BIO_Water%20Reuse%20Public%20Consultation%20Report_Final.pdf

Questionnaire

Please note that the first questions are of general nature, and replies from question 3 onwards require some prior knowledge about EU water policy and risk management in water reuse practices. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer to be given. In general several answers are possible. Completing this questionnaire could take up to 30 minutes of your time. Once you start filling in this questionnaire, the maximum time allowed by the system to complete is 90 minutes. Partial responses will not be saved. It is therefore recommended to download the full questionnaire as a PDF and prepare your answers in advance. The PDF document can be found on the consultation page.

Thank you very much for taking the time to contribute to this consultation.

1. Information about you

*1.1 a Your full name

Bertrand Vallet

*1.1 b Your email address

bertrand.vallet@eureau.org

* Important notice on the publication of contributions

Replies to this public consultation will be published on the European Commission's website (for further information, please consult the privacy statement).

Please note: regardless of the option chosen below, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents. In such cases, the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable data protection rules.

Please indicate whether your reply:

- Can be published, including your name or that of your organisation (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Can be published in an anonymous way (I consent to publication of all information in my contribution except my name/the name of my organisation, and I declare that none of it is under copyright restrictions that prevent publication)
- Cannot be published but only used for statistical and analytical purposes

* 1.2 I'm replying as a(n):

- Interested individual/citizen/consumer
- Stakeholder/expert

* If you are replying as stakeholder/expert you represent:

- Private company
- Utility / provider
- Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
- Academic/scientist/research
- National authority
- Local/regional authority
- European Institution
- International body
- Industrial or trade association
- Consumer association
- Other associations
- Other

* If responding on behalf of a(n) organisation/association/authority/company/body, please provide the name:

EurEau, European Federation of Water Services

* and its main sector(s) / field(s) of activity:

- Sanitation
- Drinking water
- Food Industry
- Agriculture
- Health
- Environment / Climate
- Economics
- Other

*

Is your organisation registered in the Transparency Register of the European Commission and the European Parliament?

In the interests of transparency, organisations, networks, platforms or self-employed individuals engaged in activities aimed at influencing the EU decision making process have been invited to provide the public with relevant information about themselves, by registering in Transparency Register and subscribing to its Code of Conduct.

Please note: If the organisation is not registered, the submission is published separately from the registered organisations. During the analysis of replies to a consultation, contributions from respondents who choose not to register will be treated as individual contributions (unless the contributors are recognised as representative stakeholders through Treaty provisions, European Social Dialogue, Art. 154-155 TFEU). If your organisation is not registered, you have the opportunity to [register now](#)

- Yes
- No

* If yes, please specify:

100 character(s) maximum

39299129772-62

*1.3 Your country/ies:

- AT - Austria
- BE - Belgium
- BG - Bulgaria
- CY - Cyprus
- CZ - Czech Republik
- DE - Germany
- DK - Denmark
- EE - Estonia
- EL - Greece
- ES - Spain
- FI - Finland
- FR - France
- HR - Croatia
- HU - Hungary
- IE - Ireland
- IT - Italy
- LT - Lithuania
- LU - Luxembourg
- LV - Latvia
- MT - Malta
- NL - Netherlands
- PL - Poland
- PT - Portugal
- RO - Romania
- SE - Sweden
- SI - Slovenia
- SK - Slovakia
- UK - United Kindgdom
- EU
- Other

If other please specify:

EU - Latvia - Lithuania

2. Your perception of the benefits of and barriers to water reuse

2.1 Please indicate your views on the level of the following **potential benefits of water reuse in agriculture irrigation**?:

	High	Medium	Low	I don't consider this as a potential benefit	I don't know
*Improved resilience /adaptation to climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Reduced water scarcity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Reduced pressure on over-abstracted water resources	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Increased revenues and /or reduced costs for the agricultural sector (due to higher water availability, reliability and productivity)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Increased revenues for other sectors (due to higher water availability)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Reduced pollution discharge from urban waste water treatment plants into rivers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Increased resource efficiency (nutrients recycling)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Contribution to soil fertilisation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Energy and carbon savings (in waste water treatment and irrigation)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Cost savings for public authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Innovation potential in the water industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Job creation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you identify **other important benefits**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

~ Reclaimed water is treated wastewater that comes out at the end of a conventional purification process and which is subjected to additional purification/disinfection steps to be suitable for the specific reuse with appropriate monitoring system. Reuse practices can be considered as a more controlled source of water for irrigation than water abstraction in natural water bodies.

~ Efficient tool to promote the development of peri-urban greenbelts

~ Opportunities for green growth

2.2 Please indicate your views on the level of the following **potential benefits of water reuse in aquifer recharge**?:

	High	Medium	Low	I don't consider this as a potential benefit	I don't know
*Improved resilience /adaptation to climate change	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Reduced water scarcity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Reduced pressure on over-abstracted water resources	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Protection of (coastal) aquifers against salt intrusion	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Increased revenues and /or reduced costs for economic sectors using water (due to higher water availability)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Reduced pollution discharge from urban waste water treatment plants into rivers	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Energy and carbon savings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Cost savings for public authorities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Innovation potential in the water industry	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Job creation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you identify **other important benefits**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

If the groundwater quality is to be maintained:

- Aquifer recharge increases availability of water for all uses and it reduces evaporation of water in superficial rivers or lakes.
- It saves costs of transportation of water from superficial catchment areas which may be far from the place where water is used.
- It is useful to improve resilience and adaptation to climate change.
- Protection of aquifers against the intrusion of polluted water
- Can also limit the risk of subsidence

2.3 Please indicate the importance of the following **main barriers to a wider uptake of water reuse solutions in agriculture irrigation**:

	High	Medium	Low	I don't consider this as a barrier	I don't know
*High cost of treatment for production of reused water	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Distance between waste water treatment plants and irrigation fields – need for conveyance infrastructure	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Low price of freshwater compared to price of reused water	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Insufficient control on (freshwater) water abstractions	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Administrative burden for water operators and users and for public authorities (e.g. specific permits for water reuse)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Insufficient consideration for water reuse in integrated water management (e.g. in scarce areas no incentives to develop water reuse projects)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Fear of potential trade barriers (e.g. import bans) for food products irrigated with reused water	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Insufficient awareness on benefits of water reuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Negative public perception on the quality of reused water	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Insufficient clarity in the regulatory framework to manage risks associated with water reuse	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Stringent national water reuse standards	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Absence of national water reuse standards	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Low availability of technical solutions to produce safe reused water	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Low awareness of technical solutions to produce safe reused water	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Scientific uncertainties as regards potential risks	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you identify **other important barriers**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

- Geographical location without scarcity issues.
- High cost derived of excessively stringent standards and too high monitoring frequencies, which can make water reuse economically unaffordable and unfeasible.
- Low price of freshwater linked to an insufficient application of enforcement of existing legislation (cost recovery, controls ...) more than to a higher cost of water reuse treatment technics.

2.4 Please indicate the importance of the following **main barriers to a wider uptake of water reuse solutions in aquifer recharge**:

	High	Medium	Low	I don't consider this as a barrier	I don't know
*High cost of treatment for production of reused water	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Low price of freshwater compared to price of reused water	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Administrative burden for water operators and users and for public authorities (e.g. specific permits for water reuse)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Insufficient consideration for water reuse integrated water management (e.g. in scarce areas no incentives to develop water reuse projects)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Insufficient awareness on benefits of water reuse	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Negative public perception on the quality of reused water	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Insufficient clarity in the regulatory framework to manage risks associated with water reuse	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Stringent national water reuse standards	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Absence of national water reuse standards	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Low availability of technical solutions to produce safe reused water	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Low awareness of technical solutions to produce safe reused water	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Scientific uncertainties as regards potential risks	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you identify **other important barriers**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

- Risk associated to specific pollutants potentially injected in groundwater.
- Over-stringent regulation for non-potable reuse and / or non-applicable existing regulation (e.g. log removal, high residence time, too many emerging pollutants to monitor, aquifer modeling, etc),
- Misunderstanding of the specificities of different types of aquifer recharge and the reliability of purification of existing technologies and soil-aquifer treatment.

2.5. Do you consider that **reusing treated waste water for agriculture irrigation nowadays in the EU is...?**:

	less safe than	safer than	as safe as	I don't know
*using water abstracted from rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

and...

	less safe than	safer than	as safe as	I don't know
*using water abstracted from groundwater	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.6 Do you think that **reusing treated waste water for aquifer recharge nowadays in the EU is...?**

	less safe than	safer than	as safe as	I don't know
*using water abstracted from rivers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

and...

	less safe than	safer than	as safe as	I don't know
*using water abstracted from (non-recharged) groundwater	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. Your opinion on possible EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse

Important notice on the envisaged new EU legislation:

In order to foster the development of safe reuse of treated wastewater, the European Commission is looking into the possibility of establishing a common approach on water reuse across the EU providing clarity, coherence and predictability to market operators who wish to invest in water reuse in the EU under comparable regulatory conditions. In particular, the Commission envisages regulation on minimum quality requirements for reused water in irrigation and aquifer recharge. This could encompass elements such as risk management plans, treatment standards, treatment process controls, application controls and water quality benchmarks. In any event the decision on whether or not to develop water reuse and the extent to which water reuse is to be encouraged, will remain untouched a Member State's prerogative.

* 3.1 What **kind of instrument** should be used to set EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in **agriculture irrigation**?:

- EU regulation (binding)
- Commission recommendation (not binding)
- CEN standards (not binding)
- Other – please specify in the box below
- I don't know

If you identify **other types of instruments**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

The best legal instrument would be an EU directive.
The introduction of minimum quality requirements with the possibility to reinforce these standards according to local conditions is crucial for wide acceptance. Recommended non-binding standards should be avoided. Without having prior knowledge of the details on the potential min. qual. requirements, they should be both applicable (economic and/or technical feasibility) and made to ensure protection of groundwater and surface water resources

* 3.2 What **kind of instrument** should be used to set EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in **aquifer recharge**?:

- EU regulation (binding)
- Commission recommendation (not binding)
- CEN standards (not binding)
- Other – please specify in the box below
- I don't know

If you identify **other types of instruments**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

A better legal instrument would be an EU directive.
The introduction of minimum quality requirements with the possibility to reinforce these standards according to local conditions is crucial for wide acceptance. Recommended non-binding standards should be avoided. Without having prior knowledge of the details of the potential min. qual. requirements, they should be both applicable (economic and/or technical feasibility) and made to ensure protection of groundwater resources.

* 3.3 Beyond fostering the development of reuse, which **specific objectives** should be addressed by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in **agriculture irrigation**? (several answers possible):

- Protection of human health of consumers (safety of agricultural products placed on the EU common market)
- Protection of human health of public directly exposed to reused water (e.g. workers...)
- Protection of water resources and dependant ecosystems
- Protection of the wider environment (e.g. soil)
- Protection of agricultural productivity (crop yield)
- Other – please specify in the box below
- I don't know

If you identify **other specific objectives**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

Regulation need to be complementary and compatible with already existing regulations (groundwater directive, drinking water directive, UWWTD, nitrate directive...)

* 3.4 Beyond fostering the development of reuse, which **specific objectives** should be addressed by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in **aquifer recharge**? (several answers possible):

- Protection of human health of consumers (in case the recharged aquifer is abstracted for drinking water purposes)
- Protection of water resources and dependant ecosystems
- Other – please specify in the box below
- I don't know

If you identify **other specific objectives**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

- Protection of drinking water sources
- Regulation need to be complementary and compatible with already existing regulations (Water Framework Directive, Groundwater Directive , drinking water directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, nitrate directive...): no over-regulation but maintaining the requirement level of existing regulations especially to safeguard groundwater and surface water resources.

* 3.5 Which **specific aspects** should be covered by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in **agriculture irrigation**? (several answers possible):

- Microbiological contaminants
- Nutrients
- Other chemicals already addressed by EU legislation on water quality in the environment or on discharges to water (Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water)
- Other chemicals not addressed by existing EU legislation
- Monitoring
- Waste water treatment techniques
- Handling of treated water at farm level (e.g. irrigation practices)
- Risk-based management (e.g. water safety plan)
- Other – please specify in the box below
- I don't know

If you identify **other specific aspects that should be covered**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

Regulation need to be complementary and compatible with already existing regulations (Water Framework Directive, Groundwater Directive , drinking water directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, nitrate directive...): no over-regulation but maintaining the requirement level of existing regulations especially to safeguard groundwater and surface water resources.

* 3.6 Which **specific aspects** should be covered by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse in **aquifer recharge**? (several answers possible):

- Microbiological contaminants
- Nutrients
- Other chemicals already addressed by EU legislation on water quality in the environment or on discharges to water (Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration, Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water)
- Other chemicals not addressed by existing EU legislation
- Monitoring
- Waste water treatment techniques
- Artificial recharge techniques
- Risk-based management (e.g. water safety plan)
- Other – please specify in the box below
- I don't know

If you identify **other specific aspects that should be covered**, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

Regulation need to be complementary and compatible with already existing regulations (groundwater directive, drinking water directive, UWWTD, nitrate directive, EQS Directive): no over-regulation but maintaining the requirement level of existing regulations. The recharge should be implemented in such a way that the groundwater quality is improved and meets, on a long-term basis, the most stringent standards related to the intended water applications.

3.7 Which **other uses of treated waste water** do you think EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse should cover?

	Should be covered by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse	Could be covered by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse	Should not be covered by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse	I don't know
*Irrigation of sport fields (incl. golf courses)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Irrigation of urban green spaces	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Other urban uses (street cleaning, firefighting...)	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*Industrial uses	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If you identify **any particular industrial sector** or **any use of treated waste water** that should be covered by EU minimum quality requirements for water reuse, please specify them:

500 character(s) maximum

The different presented uses could also be subject to independent quality requirements but it should not delay the delivery of the current proposal by providing requirements that have not yet been studied. In the future, this uses should be framed to guarantee the protection of human health and the environment in Europe.

4. Additional comments

4.1 If you have any **additional comments**, please provide them in the box below:

1000 character(s) maximum

The answers to the above questions are very dependent on actors' perception of water reuse and their need to apply these solutions. EurEau supports the development of EU-wide minimum quality requirements for specific uses as a tool to promote the development of water reuse solutions where it is needed and to increase public trust and confidence. We want to insist that the tool has to be binding but also needs to be accepted by the 28 MS. Only a directive allows MS to adapt the requirements to the local needs while ensuring minimum quality levels. A regulation is not acceptable. This Directive should ensure that groundwater and surface water are not put at risk and the level of requirements already in place in the existing EU rules should be maintained, respecting sustainability, precautionary and polluter pays principles. Emerging pollutants might be considered in the future, following the watch list monitoring exercise under the EQS Directive and the GWD.

Contact

ENV-WATERREUSE@ec.europa.eu
