

**Question for written answer E-003552/2025
to the Commission**

Rule 144

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Subject: Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the effective implementation of the Polluter Pays principle

The recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive¹, which entered into force on 1 January 2025, represents a major milestone in the EU's efforts to safeguard water quality, ocean ecosystems and public health. It introduces an extended producer responsibility (EPR) scheme under which producers of medicinal and cosmetic products are required to cover at least 80 % of this new treatment's costs.

This treatment is essential to achieving the Directive's environmental objectives introducing a 'Polluter Pays' principle, aiming to promote accountability and fairness across the value chain. However, the new EPR scheme has recently come under increased scrutiny, including a call in the new water resilience strategy for a new assessment of its potential impacts.

Without effective implementation of the Directive and the EPR scheme, water-dependent sectors, fisheries and aquaculture production will continue to be burdened by increased costs and production losses due to the pollution caused by others. Moreover, this pollution seriously affects the ocean and marine ecosystems.

In the light of this, can the Commission explain:

1. the added value of the new assessment of the Directive's implementation compared to the one prepared ahead of the Commission's proposal?
2. how it will monitor the Member States' implementation of their obligations under the new Directive obligations?
3. how it will ensure that the EPR scheme is implemented fairly and effectively, despite effective lobbying pressure exerted by some important industrial sectors?

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¹ Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (OJ L, 2024/3019, 12.12.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2024/3019/oj>).