

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000833/25
to the Commission
Margarita de la Pisa Carrión (Pfe)
(25 February 2025)**

Subject: Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive

On 12 December 2024, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive was published in the Official Journal of the European Union. As stipulated in the directive, producers of pharmaceutical and cosmetic products should cover 80% of the additional costs of quaternary water treatment given that their products are considered to be ‘the main sources of micropollutants found in urban wastewater’.

However, some in these sectors have voiced their disagreement, as although the Commission has attributed 92% of the toxic load of micropollutants to these sectors, it has not provided the methodology used to calculate this figure. Independent research suggests a much lower figure of around 10%.

In view of the above:

1. Can the Commission provide more detail on the methodology used to calculate the percentage in question?
2. Is the Commission considering imposing a moratorium on the financial obligations incumbent on companies from these sectors under the ‘omnibus package’ until the pollution percentage has been correctly assessed?

Submitted: 25.2.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(30 April 2025)**

The Commission’s impact assessment ⁽¹⁾ accompanying its proposal for a recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) ⁽²⁾ builds on the report ‘Feasibility of an extended producer responsibility system for micropollutants’ ⁽³⁾, which is publicly available.

The methodology to estimate the potential ‘no effect concentration indicator’ value of 92% is explained in this report which includes all relevant sources.

The report uses the chemicals list — Total Pollution Proxy Substances — by Pistocchi et al. 2022 ⁽⁴⁾ which is available in the published data. The methodology for compiling the list is explained in Chapter 2.

The recast UWWTD entered into force in January 2025. As envisaged therein, the Commission will prepare a number of implementing acts.

Producers can be exempted from extended producer responsibility obligations if they fulfil the conditions described in Article 9.2 of the directive.

⁽¹⁾ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52022SC0541>

⁽²⁾ Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast), OJ L, 2024/3019, 12.12.2024.

⁽³⁾ Feasibility of an EPR system for micro-pollutants- Final report (070201/2020/837586/SFRA/ENV.C.2), 2022: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/14249cbc-5f1c-11ed-92ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

⁽⁴⁾ European scale assessment of the potential of ozonation and activated carbon treatment to reduce micropollutant emissions with wastewater, 2022: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722042218?via%3Dihub#s0080>