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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Water Framework Directive (WFD)¹ provides that Member States set cost recovery arrangements, including water pricing, considering social, environmental and economic impacts as well as the geographic and climatic conditions, as long as environmental objectives are met. Member States apply different mechanisms to promote access to and ensure affordability of water services, including subsidies, social tariffs or progressive block tariffs. Applying the Polluter-Pays Principle² and the ‘adequate contribution’ clause can shift costs from households to polluters and intensive users, potentially lowering tariffs.

Member States are responsible for water management, including decisions on water allocation and prioritisation of uses in times of scarcity and on infrastructure investment, and ensuring compliance with the WFD. Additional water supply options could be considered by Greece as part of an integrated strategy, better balancing water demand and supply, considering long-term climate scenarios.

The European Water Resilience Strategy³ recognises access to clean, affordable water as a human right and that in regions with acute overexploitation, water scarcity threatens development. and that it is essential to continue securing water supply, meeting the demands from different users in a fair way. Improving water efficiency, particularly among intensive users, is key to avoid supply disruptions.

The modernised cohesion policy⁴ encourages investments to secure water access and resilience. For 2021-2027, EUR 1.2 billion⁵ were allocated to Greece to enhance overall water management and resilience aligning with broader EU goals, including drinking water and wastewater management.

¹ Article 9 of the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1–73, as amended by Commission Directive 2014/101/EU of 30 October 2014, OJ L 311, 31.10.2014, p. 32–35.

² https://environment.ec.europa.eu/economy-and-finance/ensuring-polluters-pay_en.

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, ‘European Water Resilience Strategy,’ COM(2025) 280, 4 June 2025. The quotes are from page 1 and pages 6-7 respectively.

⁴ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/mid-term-review-2025/communication-mid-term-review-2025_en.pdf.

⁵ Public expenditure.