(English version)

Question for written answer E-002227/25
to the Commission
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(4 June 2025)

Subject: Impact assessment of Directive (EU) 2024/3019

The June 2022 impact assessment of Directive (EU) 2024/3019 estimates the annual aggregated additional costs to be at around EUR 1.2 billion for all EU Member States.

1. On which precise data did the Commission base its calculations and does it have more recent data?

2. What measures will it take if the actual costs turn out to be markedly different from the estimated costs?

3. What measures will it take to prevent having any discrepancy between the estimated and actual costs in future and thus provide planning certainty to the actors involved?

Submitted: 4.6.2025

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

The Commission's impact assessment ([1]) accompanying its proposal for a recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) ([2]) builds notably on the report 'Feasibility of an extended producer responsibility system for micropollutants' ([3]) which is publicly available. The methodology is explained in this report and includes all relevant sources.

As announced in the Water Resilience Strategy ([4]), adopted on 4 June 2025, in the context of the implementation of the extended producer responsibility system under the UWWTD, the Commission will conduct an updated study of costs and its potential impacts on concerned sectors.

This update will focus on the cost of quaternary treatment and does not constitute a new impact assessment. A full evaluation of the directive is planned by 2033.

The deployment of quaternary treatment will increase stepwise until 2045, providing a significant amount of time to the sectors to plan and adjust.

As per Article 10 of the UWWTD, to ensure that the extended producer responsibility system is implemented as optimally as possible, in particular from a cost-benefit perspective, Member States must organise regular dialogues on its implementation with relevant stakeholders.

The Commission is also fostering exchanges of information and best practices to support Member States to achieve well-functioning and proportionate extended producer responsibility systems.

([1]) https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/65764c73-4a57-45dc-8199-473014cf65bf/library/889da570-1fb0-479c-bc7c-3104ad7c8feb/details.
([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]) https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/european-water-resilience-strategy_en.