

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(1.9.2025)

1. The EU has a comprehensive body of water legislation which can be considered overall fit for purpose, but there are often challenges linked to implementation. The Water Resilience Strategy (WRS)¹ therefore stresses the need for accelerated implementation. The Commission will launch Structured Dialogues with Member States to identify challenges, enforcement priorities and encourage cross-border cooperation. The Strategy supports this with over 30 flagship actions to ensure Europe becomes a sustainable, and competitive water economy, restoring and protecting the water cycles.

2. Directive (EU) 2022/2555 (NIS2 Directive)² aims to increase the common level of cybersecurity within 18 critical sectors, including the drinking water and wastewater sectors. Entities from these sectors have to take cybersecurity risk-management measures to protect their network and information systems and report significant incidents³.

Together with the Critical Entities Resilience Directive⁴, this framework addresses current and future online and offline risks, from cyberattacks to natural disasters.

Through the Cohesion Policy midterm review⁵, the Commission recognises water infrastructure and management systems are critical for the security of food, energy and economic systems. Measures to strengthen water resilience investments are proposed⁶.

3. The Drinking Water Directive⁷ requires Member States to assess water leakage levels, setting targets and reduction measures. The WRS encourages the adoption of digital technologies which can contribute to leakage reduction. In order to reduce leakages, water utilities may need to invest in infrastructure. EU cohesion funding⁸ is available to this end.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

² Directive (EU) 2022/2555 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on measures for a high common level of cybersecurity across the Union, amending Regulation (EU) No 910/2014 and Directive (EU) 2018/1972, and repealing Directive (EU) 2016/1148 (NIS 2 Directive), OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, p. 80–152.

³ respectively pursuant to Articles 21 and 23 of the NIS2 Directive.

⁴ Directive (EU) 2022/2557 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 December 2022 on the resilience of critical entities and repealing Council Directive 2008/114/EC, OJ L 333, 27.12.2022, pp. 164–198.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information-sources/publications/communications/2025/a-modernised-cohesion-policy-the-mid-term-review_en.

⁶ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_25_930.

⁷ respectively pursuant to Article 4(3) of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1–62.

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/cohesion-fund-cf_en.