

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.11.2025)

The Drinking Water Directive¹ establishes that Member States shall perform an assessment of water leakage levels within their territory and of the potential for improvements in water leakage reduction. By 2028, the Commission shall set out a maximum leakage threshold. Member States having a leakage rate exceeding that threshold shall present by 2030 an action plan to reduce their leakage rate. Moreover, in the context of the Water Resilience Strategy², the Commission has announced the adoption of an Action Plan for the digitalisation of the water sector in 2026.

Cohesion policy³ has already allocated EUR 13 billion of EU funding (2021–2027 period) for water services and infrastructure in Member States and EUR 10 billion for climate adaptation related to water challenges including droughts and floods. The Commission recently amended the Cohesion Policy related regulations to introduce measures to accelerate investment in water resilience⁴. Implementation relies on Member States' authorities managing the funds to present proposals for increasing investments in water.

Under the Recovery and Resilience Plan⁵, Greece established the Regulatory Authority for Waste, Energy and Water⁶ to strengthen the institutional framework, supervise the water sector including the water tariff policy in line with the 'polluter pays' principle, and ensure the sustainability of water services. Cohesion policy programmes support capacity building for water providers. Member States can request technical help via the Technical Support Instrument⁷ (TSI) or Cohesion for Transitions (C4T)⁸.

¹ 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.

² https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.

³ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/what/investment-policy_en.

⁴ Regulation (EU) 2025/1914 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 September 2025 amending Regulations (EU) 2021/1058 and (EU) 2021/1056 as regards specific measures to address strategic challenges in the context of the mid-term review, OJ L, 2025/1914, 19.9.2025.

⁵ <https://greece20.gov.gr/en/the-complete-plan/>.

⁶ <https://www.raaey.gr/>.

⁷ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/technical-support-instrument/technical-support-instrument-tsi_en.

⁸ Managing Authorities and beneficiaries planning to implement water-related projects under Cohesion Policy Objective 2 (Greener Europe) can apply for technical assistance under Cohesion For Transitions (C4T) Community of Practice, with a new call for support open until 17 November 2025.
https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/communities-and-networks/cohesion-4-transition_en#inline-nav-3.