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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(2.2.2026)

The Commission agrees with the Honourable Members that the Water Framework Directive (WFD)¹ is a cornerstone of the EU's water resilience agenda. It remains committed to its successful implementation.

In line with its simplification objective, the Commission has put forward proposal for an environmental omnibus². In this proposal the Commission presented a package of measures to simplify environmental legislation. The changes will contribute to reducing the administrative burden for businesses, while keeping the EU's ambitious objectives to protect the environment and human health. The WFD was not included in the scope of the omnibus.

However, in the context of the RESourceEU Action Plan³, the Commission has announced that by the second quarter of 2026 it will review and revise the WFD. This exercise will build on stakeholders' input and experiences in Member States. Particular attention will be paid to simplification and the need to address potential bottlenecks in order to promote circularity and access to critical raw materials in the EU, while protecting the environment and human health.

As outlined in the Water Resilience Strategy⁴, a more effective implementation and enforcement of the EU water legislation, particularly the WFD, is a priority to ensure water security and resilience in the EU. The Commission has recently kicked off the announced Structured Dialogue with Member States to identify implementation gaps and priorities and to work jointly towards a reinforced implementation of the broader EU water acquis.

¹ 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/publications/simplification-administrative-burdens-environmental-legislation_en.

³ https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/01c448d6-dc93-40d7-9afe-4c2af448d00c_en.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.