

EN

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

The Honourable Member is very correct, that water resilience is key to tackle water scarcity and other water related challenges. As announced in the Water Resilience Strategy¹, the Commission's proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework² features support to water resilience through investments and reforms. But already now, the mid-term review of the Cohesion Policy³ has created a unique package of incentives for water resilience projects, including in relation to water infrastructure. Also, the Common Agricultural Policy⁴ provides a wide range of tools, including support for sustainable farming practices and investments which increase water resilience in agriculture and rural areas, as well as risk management tools⁵. Interreg programmes⁶ and the b-solutions initiative⁷ also supports transboundary cooperation on water quantity issues⁸.

The Commission continuously promotes transboundary cooperation on water scarcity and drought in the context of its cooperation with Member States in the framework of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive⁹, particularly through a dedicated Working Group for Water Scarcity & Droughts¹⁰ which facilitates the exchange of best practices and the development of common guidance. The Commission is also actively encouraging Member States and third countries to cooperate more closely on water quantity management issues in the context of the competent international river basin bodies, particularly through the adoption of coordinated Programmes of Measures for the various international river basin districts in line with Article 3 of the Water Framework Directive.

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

² https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/eu-budget-2028-2034_en.

³ COM(2025) 163, 1 April 2025 https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/mid-term-review-2025/communication-mid-term-review-2025_en.pdf.

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy_en.

⁵ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy/financing-cap/cap-funds_en.

⁶ <https://interreg.eu/>.

⁷ <https://www.b-solutionsproject.com/>

⁸ For instance, by means of helping neighbouring countries in the Danube river basin calculate a water balance, <https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/danube-water-balance>.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ The CIS Working group adopted, for instance, Technical Guidance no 24 of June 2024, https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/river-basin-management-changing-climate_en.