

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004755/25
to the Commission
Asger Christensen (Renew)
(2 December 2025)**

Subject: Implementation status of the EU Water Framework Directive

Under the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), all groundwater and surface water in the EU is to achieve ‘good status’ by 2027.

With that in mind:

What action will the Commission take against Member States that fail to meet the Water Framework Directive’s aim of ‘good status’ for groundwater and surface water by 2027?

Submitted: 2.12.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission
(27 February 2026)**

As outlined in the Water Resilience Strategy ⁽¹⁾, a more effective implementation and enforcement of the EU water legislation, particularly the Water Framework Directive (WFD) ⁽²⁾ is a priority to ensure water security and resilience in the EU.

The Commission has recently launched the Structured Dialogues with Member States to identify implementation gaps and priorities and jointly work towards a reinforced implementation of the broader EU water *acquis*.

Under the current WFD, as from 22 December 2027, it will no longer be possible for Member States to invoke time related exemptions, except for reason of natural conditions, i.e. where all measures are taken to reach good status, but nature takes more time to recover.

It will still be possible for Member States to apply exemptions under Article 4(5) WFD subject to the strict criteria set out therein, in particular demonstration that all possible and not disproportionately costly measures have been taken to achieve good status.

Based on its assessment of the fourth River Basin Management Plans, the Commission will follow up as appropriate, taking into account the outcome of the ongoing Structural Dialogues.

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

⁽²⁾ 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.