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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Water Framework Directive¹ leaves Member States broad discretion to find the most suitable institutional framework. As storing water for one sector may potentially affect others, the European Water Resilience Strategy² and Guidance Document No. 24³ recommend a coordinated approach to reservoirs, involving all relevant actors and considering their environmental impacts.

A safe and reliable water supply is essential for all sectors, including agriculture⁴. To prevent disruptions, over-abstraction must be reduced across all sectors, by reducing demand, increasing efficiency, improving water retention on land, and promoting, where relevant, treated wastewater reuse. Drought-prone regions should also establish comprehensive Drought Management Plans.

There are currently no plans for specific Commission Guidelines on reservoirs. The updated⁵ Greek Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP)⁶ provides for the adoption of a National Water Strategy for the protection and sustainable management of water resources. Both RRP and Cohesion Policy⁷ fund investments and improvements in public water systems. Horizon Europe⁸ supports research and innovation for agricultural water resilience, and previous projects offered solutions to improve current practices⁹. The Common Agricultural Policy¹⁰ can support investments that enhance, among others, water efficiency and circularity.

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

³ https://environment.ec.europa.eu/publications/river-basin-management-changing-climate_en.

⁴ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/overview-vision-agriculture-food/vision-agriculture-and-food_en.

⁵ https://greece20.gov.gr/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/CONSIL_ST_15754_2025_ADD_1_EN_TXT.pdf.

⁶ https://commission.europa.eu/business-economy-euro/economic-recovery/recovery-and-resilience-facility/country-pages/greeces-recovery-and-resilience-plan_en#repowereu-measures-in-greeces-plan.

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/2021-2027_en.

⁸ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en

⁹ Restoring and protecting the water cycle as basis for sustainable water supply (<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/3678416>), Building a water-smart economy together with citizens and economic actors in a way that supports EU competitiveness, is attractive to investors and supports a thriving EU water industry (<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/4408793>) and Ensuring clean and affordable water for all (<https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2777/1755237>).

¹⁰ https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy_en.