EN
E-000582/2026
Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.4.2026)

The Water Reuse Regulation[1] enables the safe reuse of treated urban wastewater in agriculture through harmonised minimum water quality requirements, while allowing Member States to limit or ban it in certain areas[2]. Progress will be assessed through Member States' first ever data reports, due by June 2026, also feeding into the Commission's evaluation of the Regulation by 2028.

Water reuse is an important component of the Water Resilience Strategy[3], and facilitating the implementation of this Regulation is essential to achieving the objectives of the Water Framework Directive[4] and climate adaptation by reducing pressures on surface and groundwater. Under the Common Implementation Strategy[5] of that Directive, a dedicated working group is supporting implementation at national level. Further to its guidelines on minimum requirements for water reuse of 2022[6] and the Delegated Act on risk management[7], the Commission continues to work with that working group and national experts to identify implementation challenges and further guidance needs.

The Commission also facilitates the application of the rules through dialogue with authorities and stakeholders, and the exchange of best practises via workshops, events, publications, and capacity building support[8].

Targeted funding through existing frameworks like the Recovery and Resilience Facility[9], Horizon Europe[10], the Common Agricultural Policy[11] and the Cohesion Policy[12] can support

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 May 2020 on minimum requirements for water reuse, OJ L 177, 5.6.2020, p. 32–55.
[2] For reasons linked to geographical and climatic conditions.
[3] https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en.
[4] 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.
[5] Common Implementation Strategy for water policy – Working Group on Water Reuse: https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/9ab5926d-bed4-4322-9aa7-9964bbe8312d/library/3eaafe7c-0857-47d4-a896-8022df48d3ba.
[6] Commission Notice Guidelines to support the application of Regulation 2020/741 on minimum requirements for water reuse 2022/C 298/01, OJ C 298, 5.8.2022, pp. 1–55.
[7] Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2024/1765 of 11 March 2024 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to technical specifications of the key elements of risk management, OJ L, 2024/1765, 20.6.2024.
[8] EU Water Academy – Water Resilience Strategy (capacity-building): https://knowledge4policy.ec.europa.eu/water-academy_en.
[9] https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en.
[10] https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en. Notably, on tackling barriers to scaling up circular water management in agriculture: https://cordis.europa.eu/programme/id/HORIZON_HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-03.
[11] https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/common-agricultural-policy_en.
[12] Cohesion Policy – particularly the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund - supports targeted investment in treated wastewater reuse projects for non-agricultural purposes. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/policy/what/investment-policy_en.

projects related to treated wastewater reuse. Strengthening support in these areas would rely on using existing legal frameworks and procedures governing European financial instruments.