

EN
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Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(6.7.2026)

The Commission's impact assessment¹ accompanying its proposal for a recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive² built on the publicly available report 'Feasibility of an extended producer responsibility system for micropollutants'³. The methodology and its limitations, as well as all relevant sources are presented therein. The report uses the chemicals list – Total Pollution Proxy Substances⁴ – which is available online.

In line with the Directive, the producer responsibility organisations will determine how each producer contributes to the costs of quaternary treatment according to what they place on the EU market and by taking into account the quantity and hazardousness of the substances contained in their products. Producers can be exempted from extended producer responsibility (EPR) obligations if they fulfil the conditions described in Article 9.2 of the Directive. In addition, national authorities should consider the possible impacts of the EPR on the accessibility, availability and affordability of products at national level, as well as the possible impacts on the level playing field⁵.

The Commission will first evaluate the Directive by 2033, and then by 2040, taking into account the experience gained through its implementation, the data resulting from the monitoring obligations on micropollutants, improved knowledge on the presence of micropollutants in urban wastewater, and their impacts on the environment and public health. That evaluation will include an analysis of the possible need to adapt the list of products to be covered by EPR and to revise the conditions for exemption from the EPR system (Article 9.2.a).

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52022SC0541>.

² Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast), OJ L, 2024/3019, 12.12.2024.

³ Feasibility of an EPR system for micro-pollutants- Final report (070201/2020/837586/SFRA/ENV.C.2), 2022: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/14249cbc-5f1c-11ed-92ed-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>.

⁴ Pistocchi et al., European scale assessment of the potential of ozonation and activated carbon treatment to reduce micropollutant emissions with wastewater, 2022: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722042218?via%3Dihub#s0080>.

⁵ Recital (21) of Directive (EU) 2024/3019.