

EN

E-002622/2026

Answer given by Ms Roswall
on behalf of the European Commission
(11.9.2026)

An update study on the cost of quaternary treatment published by the Joint Research Centre in 2025, taking into account updated cost data, the provisions of the final Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD)¹ compared to the Commission proposal and inflation² concluded that the impact assessment estimates on extended producer responsibility (EPR) costs remain valid.

Work on the assessment of substances in urban wastewater has been part of the preparatory work accompanying the Commission proposal for a revised UWWTD³. The evaluation of the Directive, due by 2033, will consider ‘improved knowledge on the presence of micropollutants in urban wastewater, their impacts (...), as well as data resulting from the new monitoring obligations on micropollutants’⁴.

In line with recital 21 of the recast Directive, Member States should take into consideration the possible impacts of the application of the EPR on the accessibility, availability and affordability of products at national level. The Commission will continue its close cooperation with the European Parliament, Member States and stakeholders on the pragmatic implementation of the recast Directive and will monitor its impact on the accessibility, availability and affordability of products at national level, in particular medicines.

¹ 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.

² Joint Research Centre (2025) - Updated estimation of the costs of quaternary wastewater treatment in the EU: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC144745>.

³ Joint Research Centre (2022):

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969722042218?via%3Dihub>; Commission impact assessment accompanying the proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast) SWD(2022) 541 final.

⁴ Article 30 of Directive (EU) 2024/3019.