

EN

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Answer given by Ms Roswall  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(29.9.2026)

The EU legal framework has been strengthened through the recast Drinking Water Directive<sup>1</sup>, which requires Member States to improve or maintain access to water intended for human consumption for all, with particular attention to vulnerable and marginalised groups. This Directive needs to be implemented in accordance with the fundamental rights and principles recognised by the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union<sup>2</sup> by ensuring full respect for, inter alia, the right to dignity (Article 1) or the right to life (Article 2) and the EU's commitment to a high level of environmental protection (Article 37).

Under the European Water Resilience Strategy<sup>3</sup>, access to clean and affordable water is presented as a human right and a public good. As part of this Strategy, the Commission is focusing on effective implementation of EU law, support for investment in water infrastructure, reduction of pollution, improved water efficiency and resilience, and better protection of water resources. The Commission will continue to promote access to safe drinking water, with particular attention to vulnerable groups.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast), OJ L 435, 23.12.2020, p. 1–62.

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text\\_en.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/topics/environment/water-resilience-strategy_en).