



European Water Resilience Strategy

4 June 2025

Luca Perez, Deputy Head of Unit
Sustainable Freshwater Management
DG Environment, European Commission

EEA Report State of Water 2024

Too polluted...



37%
of surface waters
are in **good** or **better**
ecological status



29%
of surface waters
are in **good**
chemical status

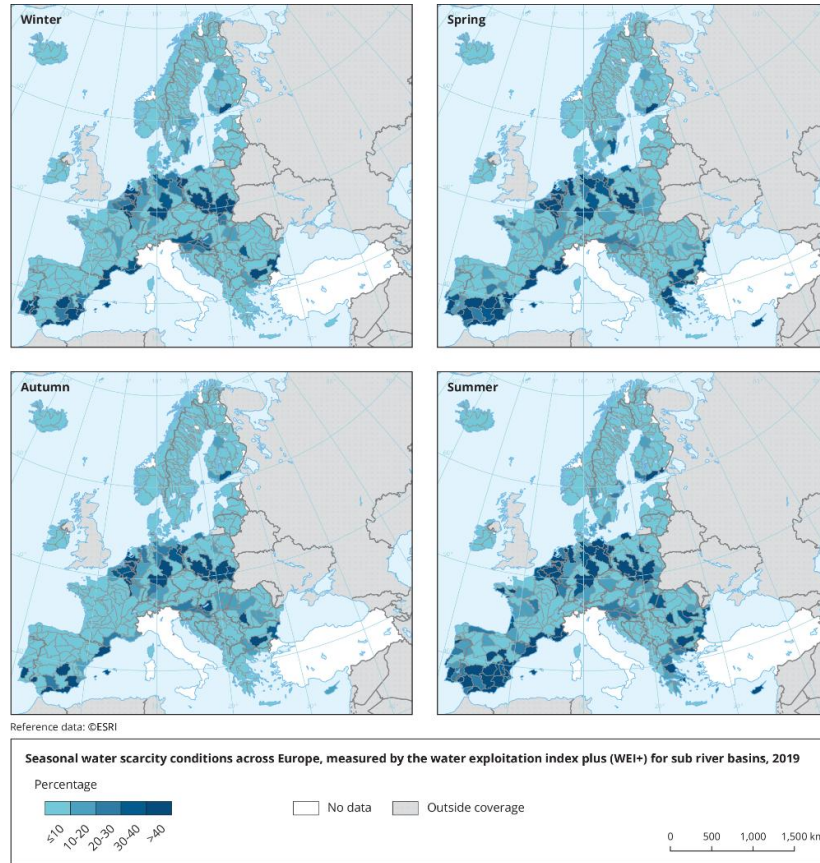


91%
of groundwater area
is in **good**
quantitative status

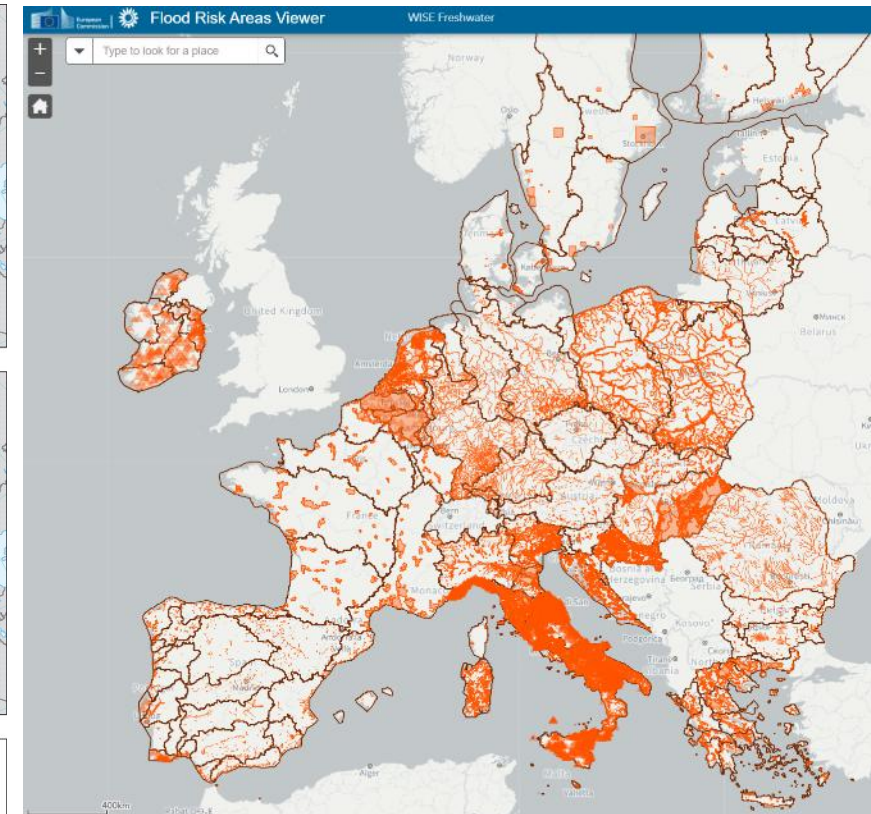


77%
of groundwater area
is in **good**
chemical status

Too little...



Too much...



Jessika Roswall

Commissioner for Environment, Water
Resilience and a Competitive Circular
Economy



Press release of 4 June 2025

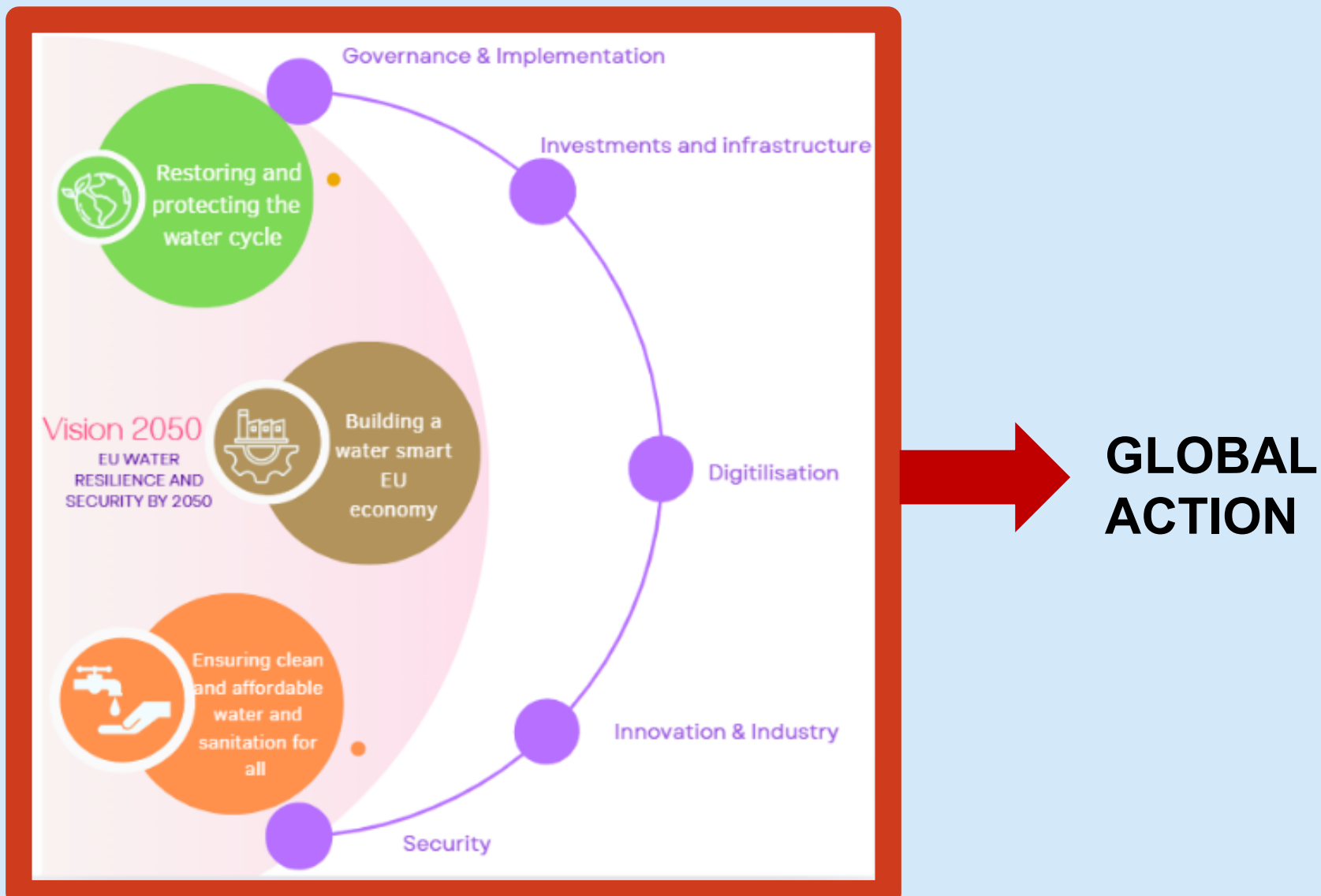
“Water is not just a resource, it is a lifeline. But extreme weather is putting water under huge stress. Already today 30% of Europe’s land faces water scarcity every year.

Water is a shared resource and therefore **a shared responsibility**, we all have to start using water more efficiently. With the EU Water Resilience Strategy we give Member States the necessary toolbox to fix our broken water cycle, to become a water-smart economy and to ensure clean and affordable water for everybody.

Our future depends on how well we start managing our water today.”

European Water Resilience Strategy

Vision – Objectives – Actions



Restoring and protecting the water cycle

Key messages

The EU has **very solid water legislation**

To protect water **we must act on land-restore**

We need to embrace a **Source to Sea approach**

We must curb **nutrient pollution**

We need to **clean up forever chemicals**



Restoring and protecting the water cycle



Green, Blue, Grey water
in a context of adaptation



Water smart economy

Key messages

Water resilience is essential for **competitiveness**

Water is finite - it **must be used and reused efficiently**

The green transition comes with **a water bill**

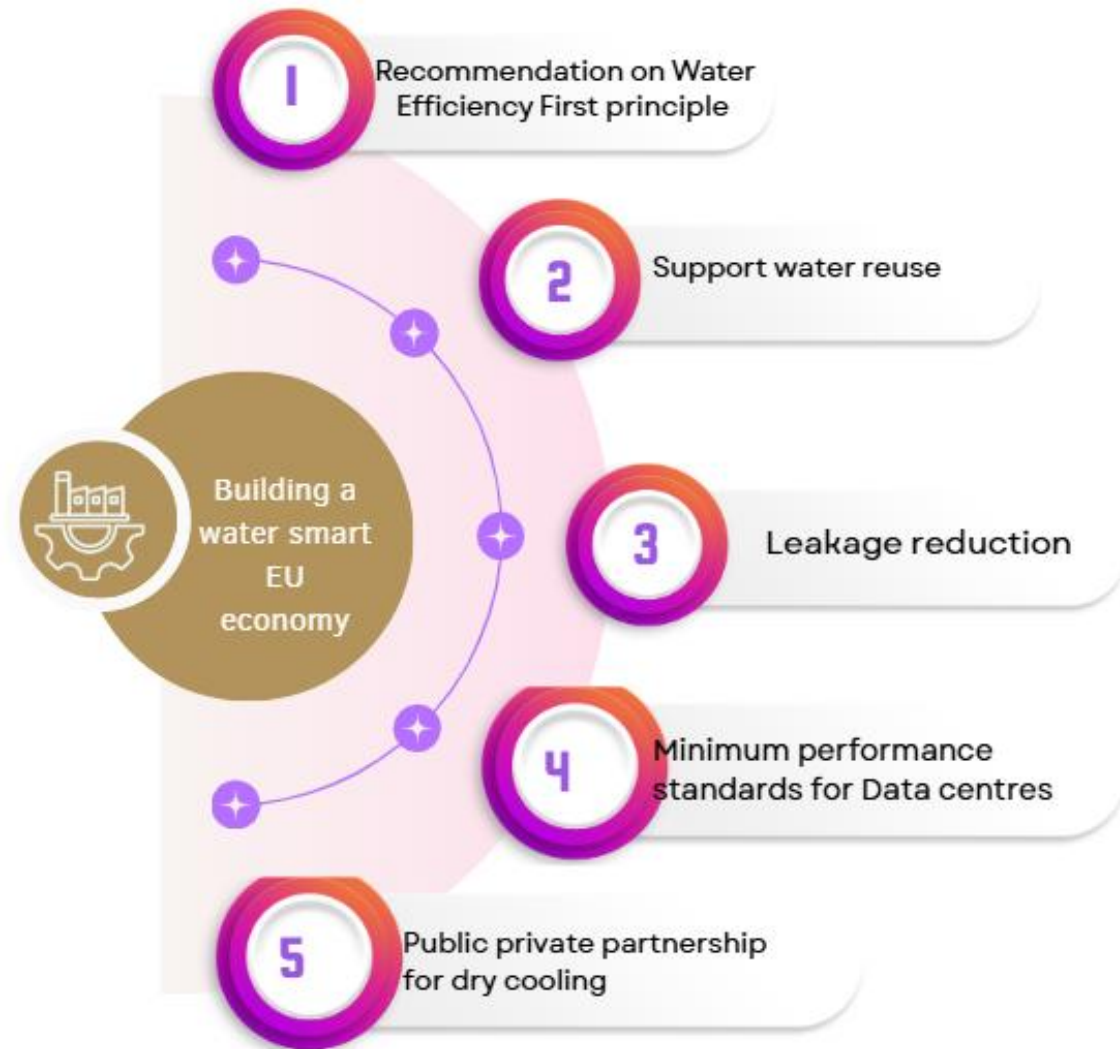
Energy and water efficiency come hand in hand

Sustainable agriculture and the food systems are key allies

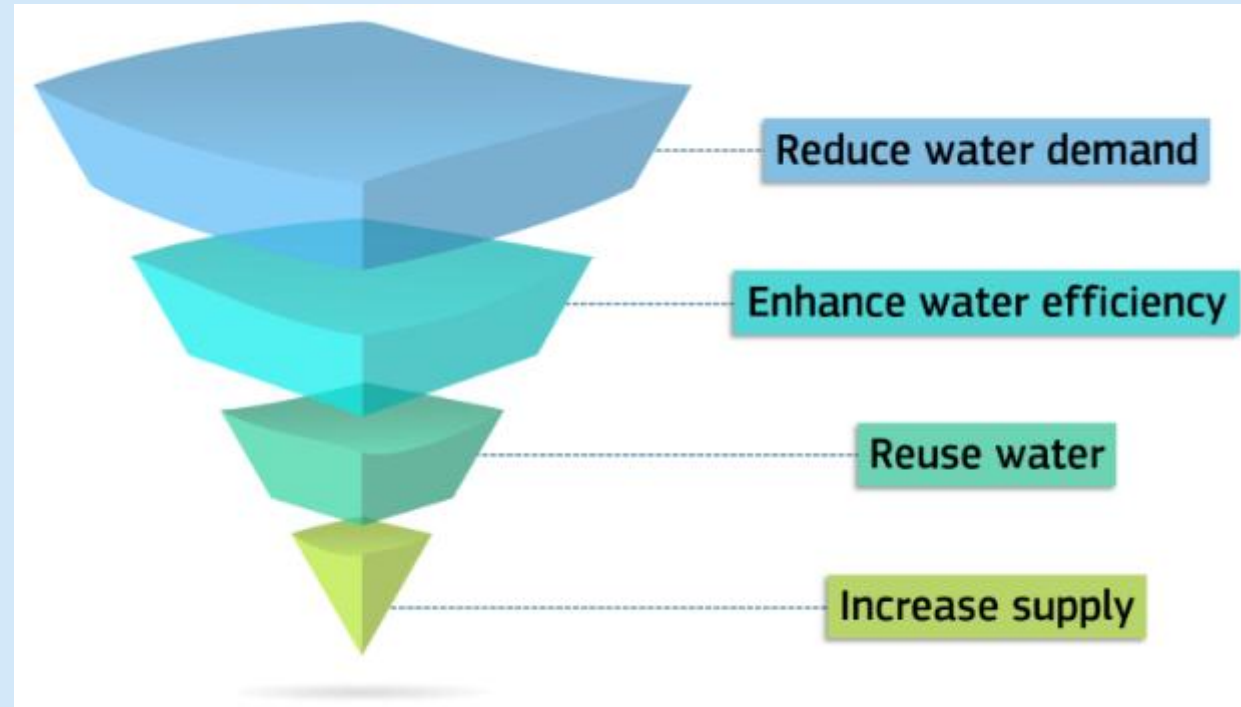
EU should aim
to enhance
water efficiency
by at least 10%
by 2030



Water smart economy



Water Efficiency First - Hierarchy



Securing clean and affordable water for all

Key messages

Access to clean water and sanitation is **a human right**

Consumers play an essential role in water resilience

Housing and city planning are key components to guarantee this right

Pricing should create the right incentives

Enhanced awareness raising is tantamount





Water smart spatial planning must guide the green and digital transition





Finance, Investments and infrastructure

Key messages

There is a **very significant funding gap** to implement water legislation

Yet Member States struggle to use the available funds- **assistance**

The **next EU budget is an opportunity** for water resilience

Private funding will need to be stepped up

The **EIB emerges as a essential ally** with its new Water Program

AREAS OF ACTION

Finance, investments and infrastructure

LAUNCH OF THE EIB WATER PROGRAMME AND ADVISORY FACILITY



MIDTERM REVIEW OF COHESION POLICY - WATER RESILIENCE A NEW PRIORITY



ESTABLISH A WATER RESILIENCE ACCELERATOR



15 billion
Euro in
2025-2027





Digitalisation

Key messages

Digitalisation of the management of water holds **an incredible potential**

Managing water from the space must become common practice

Real-time data collection will make us more resilient

Digitalisation will reduce **administrative burden**

Digitalisation offers significant **business opportunities**

AREAS OF ACTION

Digitalisation

ACTION PLAN ON DIGITALISATION OF THE WATER SECTOR



EU WIDE INITIATIVE ON SMART WATER METERING



ONE STOP SHOP FOR COPERNICUS PRODUCTS ON WATER





Research, innovation, skills

Key messages

Knowledge gaps - We know a lot about water but yet not enough

Innovation in water management must be scaled up- from patents to market

A **properly skilled work force** driving water management is essential

There is a need to **bring closer together** industry, education and research

There is a need for the right frame to **attract young people** to the water sector

AREAS OF ACTION

Research, innovation, skills

WATER RESILIENCE R&D STRATEGY



EUROPEAN WATER ACADEMY



KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITY
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY





Security and preparedness

Key messages

Our **critical infrastructure is at risk**

Citizens must be empowered, prepared and protected

Many tools exist to protect the population but **they are not sufficiently used**

Knowing and addressing our weaknesses will make us stronger

Solidarity will be crucial but would need to embed **preparedness by design**

AREAS OF ACTION

Security and preparedness

PROTECTING CRITICAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



ENHANCE THE USE OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS



EUROPEAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN AND THE PREPAREDNESS UNION STRATEGY



Water Resilience Strategy

1st Water
Resilience
Forum
8 Dec 2025

Mid term
review of the
Strategy
2027

Evaluation of
progress
2029



**See
Water
Differently**

#WaterWiseEU