

EU Monitoring Report

29 September – 6 October 2026

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WATER

- **Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD)**

- *Czechia to implement EU wastewater rules as pharma costs remain a concern*

Source: [*Rapporteur*](#)

Czechia is preparing to introduce new EU rules requiring advanced treatment of urban wastewater. While the government supports the environmental objectives of the rules, questions remain over how the new producer responsibility system will work and whether the additional costs could affect medicine prices and availability.

The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) requires EU countries to introduce stricter treatment standards, including a new so-called 'quaternary stage' at selected wastewater treatment plants to remove micropollutants.

It also introduces an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) system under which pharmaceutical and cosmetics producers will contribute to the costs of this additional treatment. The directive must be transposed into national law by 31 July 2027.

Czechia supported the final directive at EU level, but raised concerns about its practical and economic consequences, particularly for the pharmaceutical sector. For now, the Czech government is preparing the legislation without knowing the final financial impact on producers, wastewater operators or patients.

The Czech Agriculture Ministry, which is responsible for most of the implementation concerning wastewater treatment plants and sewerage systems, said that the transposition is currently at the stage of a legislative proposal undergoing an inter-ministerial consultation process.

Agriculture ministry spokesperson Marek Otava told Rapporteur, "The timetable for preparation is set so that the Czech Republic meets its obligation to transpose the Directive within the prescribed deadline (31 July 2027)."

The legislation is expected to establish the general framework for the EPR system. Detailed rules will then be set out in implementing legislation.

- **Water Framework Directive**

- *Updated draft agenda – 52nd Meeting of the Working Group on Ecological Status and back-to-back workshop on the use of Earth observation to support monitoring and classification under the WFD (20-22 October)*

Source: [*European Commission*](#)

Please find on the link above the updated draft agenda and the working documents of the 52nd WFD CIS Working Group on Ecological Status and back-to-back workshop on the use of Earth observation to support monitoring and classification under the Water Framework Directive, to be held on 20-22 October.

- ***Draft agenda – 49th Meeting of the Working Group Data & Information Sharing and workshop on data management and AI (5-6 October)***

Source: [European Commission](#)

Please find on the link above the draft agenda of the 49th Meeting of the CIS Working Group Data & Information Sharing and of the workshop on data management and AI, to be held on 5-6 October.

- ***New EU source-to-sea assessments for certain Member States underline need for stronger action on pollution and resilience***

Source: [European Commission](#)

The European Commission has published new reports on the state of water in the European Union, which include assessments for Member States that did not provide data in time for the initial reports published in February 2025.

The reports cover the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the Floods Directive, and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and highlight progress on the state of EU water bodies over the past six years. They also identify key areas where further efforts are needed.

The reports confirm many of the trends identified in the [Commission's February 2025 assessment](#). Pollution remains one of the biggest obstacles to achieving good ecological and chemical status, with diffuse nutrient pollution, alongside chemical pollution and other pressures, continuing to impact water bodies. Disruption of natural river flows and other hydromorphological pressures also remain significant obstacles.

The Commission is working directly with Member States to address these challenges.

Please find here the assessments of the **third River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) and second Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) which are now available for 8 additional Member States: [Bulgaria](#), [Cyprus](#), [Greece](#), [Ireland](#), [Malta](#), [Portugal](#), [Slovakia](#) and [Slovenia](#).**

• **Drinking Water Directive**

- ***Answer to a Parliamentary question - Possible breaches of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption and Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products in the water supply network in Xàtiva (Valencia)***

Source: [European Parliament](#)

On 23 July, MEP Vicent Marzà Ibáñez (Greens/EFA, Spain) submitted a question for written answer on possible breaches of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 on the quality of water intended for human consumption and Regulation (EU) No 305/2011 laying down harmonised conditions for the marketing of construction products in the water supply network in Xàtiva (Valencia). He asked:

- Is the Commission aware of this case, in which prohibited materials (fibre-cement and lead) have been found in drinking-water-supply infrastructure in the EU?

- Is the Commission of the opinion that a local authority's prolonged failure to engage in self-monitoring and data-reporting constitutes a breach of Directive (EU) 2020/2184?
- How does the Commission intend to check whether Spain is meeting the deadlines for the transposition and effective implementation of Directive (EU) 2020/2184 in local municipalities where proven health risks are present?

On 30 September, Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy, answered on behalf of the European Commission. In EU water supply systems, asbestos-cement pipes were widely used up to the 1980s. Although still present in Member States' water supply systems, these pipes are progressively phased out.

Under the recast Drinking Water Directive (DWD), Member States are required to assess potential health risks and, where necessary, take measures to eliminate such risks. To ensure the protection of human health, Member States must ensure that the level of lead in drinking water does not exceed the limit values for lead set out in the recast DWD.

The DWD requires Member States to ensure that drinking water is monitored, risks are assessed and managed, and the required data is made available to the European Environmental Agency and the Commission.

The Commission does not routinely check local monitoring and data collection, as primary responsibility lies with Member States' competent authorities. However, **where there are indications of non-compliances, the Commission can request clarifications, launch targeted fact-finding, and, if necessary, pursue infringement action.** The deadline for transposing the DWD in national law was 12 January 2023. The Commission is **assessing the transposition conformity in all Member States.**

In this context, the Commission has **launched an infringement procedure INFR(2025)2026 for non-conform transposition against Spain.** While the Commission has no indication of any drinking water quality compliance issues in the area concerned, it will continue to monitor the annually updated drinking water quality data provided by Spain.

If the Commission identifies shortcomings in water quality compliance, it may take appropriate follow-up action, including infringement proceedings specifically related to such shortcomings.

Please find the parliamentary question: [HERE](#)

○ **Minutes – 12th Meeting of the Committee for Risk Assessment Drinking Water Directive Working Group (17-18 September)**

Source: [ECHA](#)

Please find on the link above the minutes of the 12th meeting of the Committee for Risk Assessment Drinking Water Directive Working Group, held on 17-18 September.

○ **Petition on access to drinking water and sewage services in Constanța, Romania**

Source: [European Parliament](#)

A notice to the Members of the Committee on Petitions concerning a petition on access to drinking water and sewage services in Constanța, Romania was published. The petitioner alleges that residents lack access to basic public utilities, namely drinking water and

sewage infrastructure. The petitioner claims that households are forced to rely on alternative sources of water and inadequate sanitation facilities, which are considered incompatible with acceptable standards of hygiene and public health. **The petitioner states that repeated requests to the regional water operator and local authorities have not resulted in the extension of the water and sewage networks, allegedly due to the absence of approved funding.**

The petitioner argues that the lack of access to drinking water and sanitation raises concerns regarding compliance with EU principles relating to human dignity, healthcare, equal treatment and non-discrimination, as well as public health, environmental protection and social cohesion. **The petitioner therefore calls for an assessment of the situation, including compliance with relevant EU principles and the use of EU funds allocated to water and sewage infrastructure in Romania, and requests support for extending these services to the neighbourhood through national or EU-funded investment programmes.**

- **Water resilience**

- **Commissioner Roswall and German Federal Minister Schneider commit to strengthening EU water legislation implementation**

Source: [European Commission](#)

On 5 October, in Berlin, Jessika Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy and Carsten Schneider, Germany's Federal Minister for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, signed a joint statement on strengthening water resilience in Germany.

The joint statement sets out how Germany, building on its National Water Strategy, will boost efforts to restore and protect the water cycle, build a more water-smart economy, and ensure safe, affordable access to water and sanitation. It also highlights how the Commission will be supporting these efforts. **Germany is the first country to conclude a structured dialogue process, which the Commission started in November 2025 and will gradually involve all Member States.**

Addressing water pollution is a top priority, with measures included to reduce legacy mining pollution and to support the transition to sustainable agriculture. Germany will also work to boost natural water retention, keep water abstraction at sustainable levels, improve water efficiency, and secure better control of water resources.

Germany will also continue to implement EU water legislation, and where needed, upgrade existing water treatment plants with an additional pollutant removal stage. These upgrades will help filter out pharmaceutical residues, pesticides, PFAS and other micropollutants that current treatment facilities are not equipped to remove effectively.

Other steps include enhancing the efforts to restore aquatic ecosystems, **identifying the main risks to water quality in drinking water catchment areas, as well as a commitment to take stronger preventive measures to reduce those risks.** Efforts will also be made to upskill and support municipalities and local-level actors.

Please find the joint Statement by German Federal Minister for the Environment and Commissioner Roswall, as a result of the Structured Dialogue on the implementation of Water legislation: [HERE](#)

○ **Water Europe releases new white paper on Insurance and Water-resilience Investment**

Source: [Water Europe](#)

Water Europe has released its new white paper 'Insurance and Water-Resilience Investment: Strengthening insurability, adaptation and public-private risk sharing'. Developed within its Community of Practice on the Water-Smart Economy, the publication examines how insurance, adaptation and investment can work together to strengthen water resilience.

The paper identifies **three policy priorities**:

- Embedding water risks and future insurability in spatial planning, lending and investment, distinguishing adaptation of existing vulnerable assets from preventing new exposure.
- Recognising the full benefits of prevention and adaptation in project appraisal and sharing costs among beneficiaries.
- Developing a bankable pipeline of water-resilience projects, supported by clear public-private arrangements for investment and residual-risk protection.

Its central message is that insurance is an integral part of water-resilience finance, but not a substitute for prevention and adaptation. It provides a financial safety net for residual risk within a broader system of preparedness, risk reduction, crisis management and resilient recovery.

Please find the white paper: [HERE](#)

CHEMICALS

• CLP

○ *More classification and labelling information available in ECHA CHEM*

Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA's chemicals database ECHA CHEM has been expanded to include all documents related to the [harmonised classification and labelling \(CLH\) process](#). These include:

- reports proposing harmonised classification, submitted by the European Commission, Member States or companies; and
- Risk Assessment Committee's (RAC) opinions and their annexes.

This information helps users track a proposal throughout the CLH process, from the notification of an intention to the adoption of a RAC opinion.

In addition, **the Classification and Labelling Inventory in ECHA CHEM now clearly displays separate classifications for harmonised Annex VI entries** when substance variants have different harmonised classifications under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation.

○ *Consultation on harmonised classification and labelling*

Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA is **looking for comments on the harmonised classification and labelling proposal** for:

- ethyl 4-dimethylaminobenzoate [1] 2-ethylhexyl 4-(dimethylamino)benzoate [2] padimate; 3-methylbutyl 4-(dimethylamino)benzoate [3] (EC 233-634-3 [1]; 244-289-3 [2]; 244-288-8 [3], CAS 10287-53-3 [1]; 21245-02-3 [2]; 21245-01-2 [3]).

You can have your say until 27 November 2026.

○ *New intentions to harmonise classification and labelling*

Source: [ECHA](#)

Two intentions have been submitted for:

- phosphine (EC 232-260-8, CAS 7803-51-2)
- emamectin benzoate (ISO); (4''R)-4''-deoxy-4''-(methylamino)avermectin B1 benzoate (EC -, CAS 155569-91-8).

• REACH

○ *Provisional Draft Agenda – 73rd Meeting of the Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis (17-19 November)*

Source: [ECHA](#)

Please find on the link above the provisional draft agenda of the 73rd Meeting of the Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis, to be held on 17-19 November.

○ *A review of substance evaluation and regulatory measures in the EU*

Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA **has reviewed more than a decade of [substance evaluation](#) activities under REACH**. Their findings are now published in a new technical report. It highlights how the process has evolved and improved authorities' understanding of chemicals that may pose risks to human health or the environment.

○ *New intention to identify a substance of very high concern*

Source: [ECHA](#)

A **new intention for identification as a substance of very high concern** has been received for:

- 4,4'-methylenediphenol (EC 210-658-2, CAS 620-92-8).

○ *Assessment of regulatory needs report published*

Source: [ECHA](#)

The report for the following substance group is now available on ECHA's website:

- [Organotin compounds](#)

If you have questions or feedback related to the assessment work, you can send them to ECHA using this [webform](#).

● **Biocides**

○ *Council agrees negotiating stance to simplify and streamline food and feed safety requirements*

Source: [Council of the EU](#)

On 30 September, the Council set its position on the remaining part of the 'Omnibus X' simplification package. The package aims to reduce unnecessary administrative costs and burdens, while maintaining the EU's very high standards for food and feed safety, and for the protection of human and animal health and environmental protection. In practice, the proposal simplifies rules and procedures identified as particularly burdensome by stakeholders and authorities across EU legislation, **from plant protection products and biocidal products, to feed**, official controls and animal health and welfare.

The negotiating mandate notably covers the regulation on maximum residue levels, the regulation on plant protection products, as well as the **biocidal products regulation**, among others. The mandate approved **follows the adoption on 11 May 2026 of a regulation extending data protection periods regarding biocides**, and the approval, on 27 May 2026, of the Council's negotiating position on updated rules for the sustainable use of pesticides.

The Council mandate **maintains the currently applicable principle of approvals for active substances with an expiration date, albeit with a prolonged approval period, notably of 15 years for first approvals and 25 years for subsequent renewals.** This is deemed as suitable

and sufficient to address the structural delays in the review programme of active substances.

The Council presidency will start negotiations with the European Parliament once the latter adopts its position, with a view to reaching a speedy provisional agreement on the overall 'Omnibus X' package by the end of 2026.

○ *ECHA Opinion on Union authorisation*

Source: [ECHA](#)

Please find on the link above the Opinion of the European Chemicals Agency on administrative changes of the Union authorisation of CMIT-MIT Aqueous 1.5-15.

○ *Opinions of the Biocidal Products Committee*

Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA published the opinions of the Biocidal Products Committee adopted during their September meeting:

- Opinion on the application for inclusion into Annex I, Category 4 of the active substance: Arnica montana (Asteraceae), ethanol-water extract of above ground parts, ethyl acetate extracted, solvent exchanged with propylene glycol ([HERE](#))
- Opinion on the application for approval of the active substance: Free radicals generated in situ from ambient air or water Product type 2 ([HERE](#))
- Opinion on the application for renewal of the approval of the active substance: 3-iodo-2-propynyl butylcarbamate Product type 8 ([HERE](#))
- Opinion on the application for approval of the active substance: Active chlorine generated from sodium chloride and trihydrogen pentapotassium di(peroxomonosulfate) di(sulfate) Product type 2 ([HERE](#))
- Opinion on the application for approval of the active substance: Active chlorine generated from sodium chloride and trihydrogen pentapotassium di(peroxomonosulfate) di(sulfate) Product type 5 ([HERE](#))

○ *Decisions on Union authorisations*

Source: [European Commission](#)

On 25 September, the European Commission granted a Union authorisation for:

- the biocidal product family 'Christeyns Peracetic Acid Biocidal Product Family' ([HERE](#))

On 5 October, the European Commission amended the Union authorisation of:

- the biocidal product family 'Contec Calcium Hypochlorite Product Family' ([HERE](#))

On 5 October, the European Commission cancelled the Union authorisation for:

- the single biocidal product 'Nordkalk QL 0-2' ([HERE](#))

They shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

- **ECHA**

- **EUCLEF update**

Source: [ECHA](#)

The [EU chemicals legislation finder \(EUCLEF\)](#) continues to expand and improve its coverage.

Latest updates include, among others, new regulatory information on Water Framework Directive and Water Environmental Quality Standards Directive. ECHA has also added new regulatory information and a legislation profile for Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive.

- **Hazardous substances**

- **Webinar: What ECHA's new role under RoHS means for industry**

Source: [ECHA](#)

ECHA is organising a **webinar on 26 November 2026 from 11:00 to 13:00 (Helsinki time) to learn about their upcoming scientific and technical tasks under the [Restriction of Hazardous Substances \(RoHS\) Directive](#)**. They will cover topics such as the updated application format and guidance on exemptions. The event is aimed at companies, industry associations, authorities, consultants and others interested in the implementation of the RoHS Directive. You can watch the webinar live on ECHA's website.

- **Industry**

- **Europe's bid to strengthen chemicals sector is 'short-cut to more pollution'**

Source: [ChemSec](#)

The EU's campaign to strengthen its chemicals sector has been captured by legacy industry interests at the expense of the bloc's citizens, says chemicals watchdog Chemsec.

The initiative must be prevented from steering EU chemicals policy, which would risk propping up existing hazardous production and undermining investment in safer alternatives, said ChemSec, which is quitting the Critical Chemicals Alliance with immediate effect.

ChemSec calls on the European Commission to ensure the Alliance plays no guiding role in chemicals regulation, policy or legislative measures.

The Critical Chemicals Alliance was established in January 2026, ostensibly to identify chemicals and production capacity considered critical to Europe's economy.