

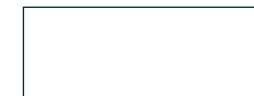
20 June 2025

EU Green Week Partner Event

## EU legislation on sewage sludge - overview

Sylvie GRAJALES  
European Commission – DG ENV  
Circular economy and clean industrial policy  
From waste to resources

WASTEWATER AS A RESOURCE:  
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON  
**SEWAGE SLUDGE MANAGEMENT**  
AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY



# Sewage sludge directive (86/278/EEC)

- Promotes nutrient recovery
- Protection of the environment and health
- Sewage sludge must be treated
- Application on land only at certain phases of plant growth
- Limits to be respected for contaminants in sludge and soil

# Sewage sludge directive - Evaluation

- Still relevant
- Set of contaminants needs update
- Promotes a relatively cheap way of managing sludge (incineration = 3 times more expensive)
- Sludge management very dependent on local conditions

# Urban wastewater treatment directive

- EU 2024/3019 – EiF 1 Jan 2025
- Higher level of treatment
- P-recovery
- Energy neutrality
- PFAS
- Microplastics

# Other legislation and initiatives

- Water resilience strategy
- Renewable energy directive – 42,5% by 2030 (24,5% today)
- CAP – Member States National Plans - Evaluation
- Nitrates directive
- ETS - desincentivises incineration
- Bioeconomy Strategy

# Circular Economy Act



## A more circular and resilient economy

Working to decarbonise our economy will be part of our continued shift to a more sustainable pattern of production and consumption, retaining the value of resources in our economy for longer.

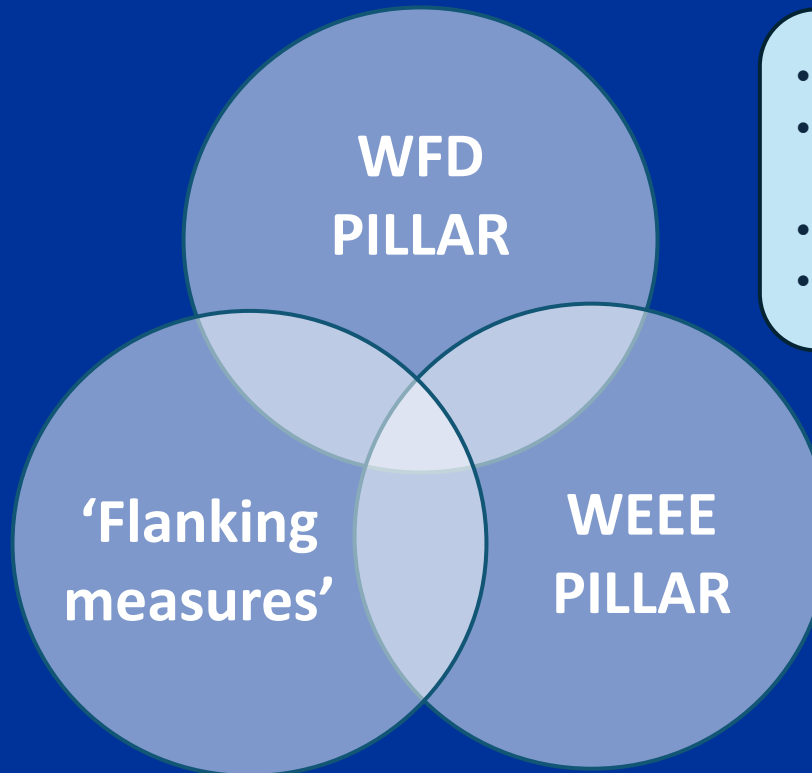
This will be the purpose of a new **Circular Economy Act**, helping to create market demand for secondary materials and a single market for waste, notably in relation to critical raw materials.



As part of your work in contributing to the Clean Industrial Deal, you will lead, with the Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy, on a **Circular Economy Act** with measures to create market demand for secondary materials and establish a single market for waste, notably in relation to critical raw materials. As part of this work, you will propose an updated **bioeconomy strategy**.

# The Circular Economy Act three pillars + horizontal approach

Reducing administrative burden, minimising reporting obligations, digitalizing and simplifying



- End of Waste Criteria / EPR
- Extended Producer Responsibility schemes
- **Recycled content** in products
- Sewage sludge – Nutrient recovery

- E.g. harmonised criteria for **national cap-and-trade systems** for landfilling

# CEA – Flanking Measures

- **Public Procurement** for selected circular goods & services
- **Industrial policy measures** (e.g. CE business models, emerging recycling technologies, State aid)
- Harmonised **environmental tax** bases and other tax measures
- Harmonised criteria for **national cap-and-trade systems** for landfilling

**Flanking measures  
PILLAR**



# CEA- related next steps

- Clean Industrial Dialogue on Circularity
- Green Week: Focus on CEA
- Public Consultation on the Circular Economy Act – early July
- preparatory work in view of the Impact Assessment, supported by JRC and external consultants

# Thank you



DG ENV website on waste: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/waste/index.htm>

Circular economy: <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/circular-economy/>

[Coming soon:](#)

[Circular Economy Act](#)

