



# **EU water policy: Commission activities**

**18<sup>th</sup> Steering Group Meeting -  
EUSDR**

**Budapest – 4 November 2019**

**DG Environment, C.1 Clean Water Unit**

# Outline

1. The next European Commission
2. EU Water Policy overview
3. Assessment of the 2nd River Basin Management Plans
4. Fitness Check of the EU water acquis
5. Water reuse
6. Drinking water
7. Pharmaceuticals in the environment

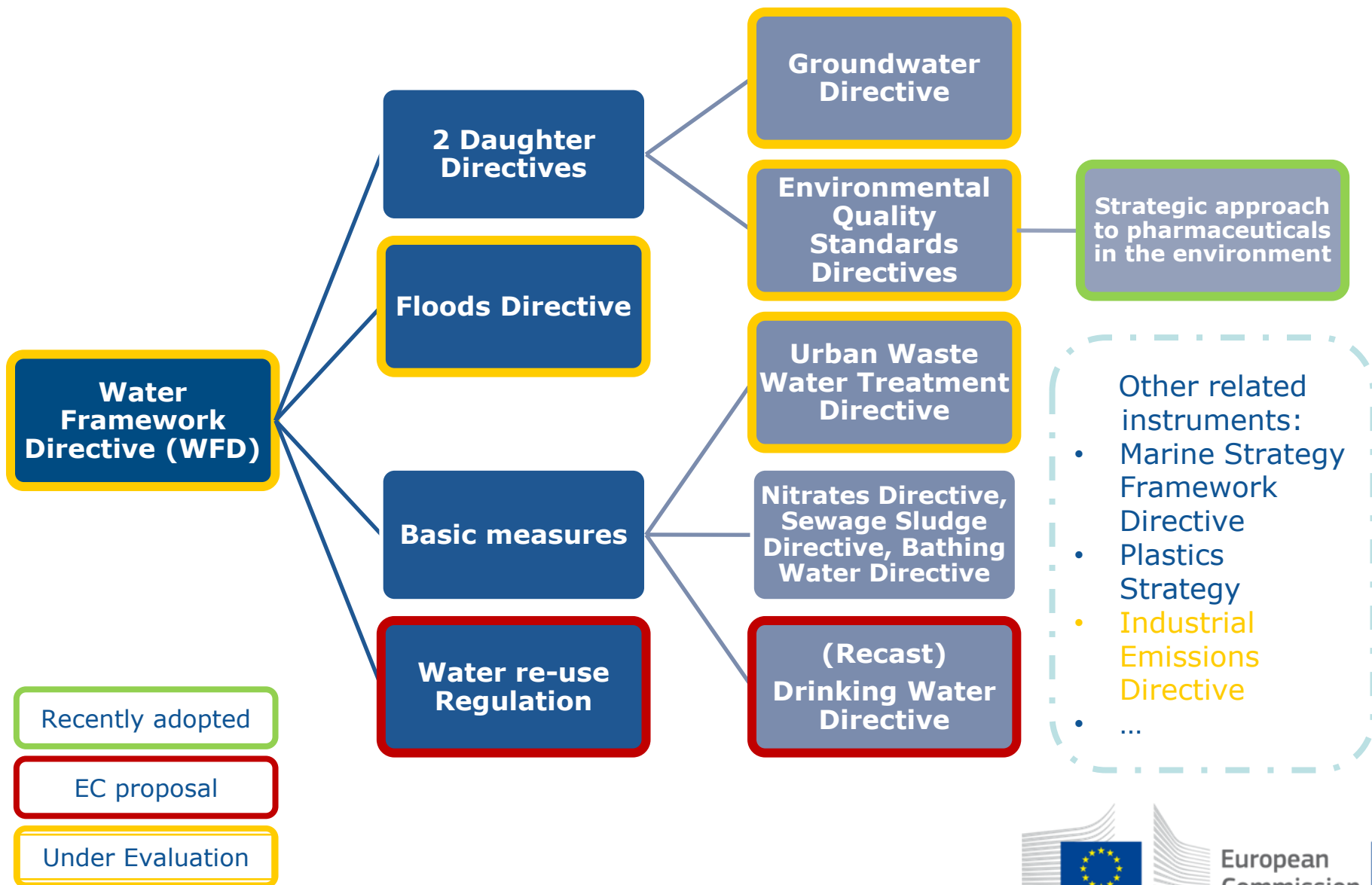
# Upcoming Von der Leyen Commission: A significant increase of « green » ambition!

- *A European Green Deal*
- *Announced deliverables:*
  - *Climate Neutrality for Europe by 2050*
  - *European Climate Law*
  - *Biodiversity Strategy for 2030*
  - *Towards Zero Pollution Ambition*
  - *Circular Economy Action Plan*
  - *Farm to Fork initiative*
  - *Sustainable Investment Plan*

# Towards Zero Pollution means:

- *« For the health of our citizens, our children and grandchildren, Europe needs to move towards a zero-pollution ambition »*
- *This entails a cross-cutting strategy for the protection of citizens' health from environmental degradation and pollution addressing:*
  - *Air and water quality*
  - *Hazardous chemicals*
  - *Industrial emissions*
  - *Pesticides and endocrine disruptors*

# What is ongoing in the water area?



# Commission Report on the Second River Basin Management Plans

**26 February 2019 - COM(2019) 95 final**

**[https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl\\_reports.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/impl_reports.htm)**

# What has the Commission assessed?



Comprehensive picture has been presented in previous implementation reports

**Current assessment focusses on** progress since first cycle - follow-up to Commission recommendations



**Basis for analysis =** RBMPs, WISE reporting - complementary information

**Main areas:** Governance – Monitoring - Status assessment and classification - Heavily Modified Water Bodies - Environmental objectives and exemptions - Diffuse pollution - Economic analysis - Droughts etc.



# Europe's waters today

- **Surface water: 40% in good ecological status**

Main pressures – hydromorphological alterations, diffuse and point source pollution – over-abstraction

- **Surface water: 38% in good chemical status**

Mostly due to mercury and other ubiquitous substances

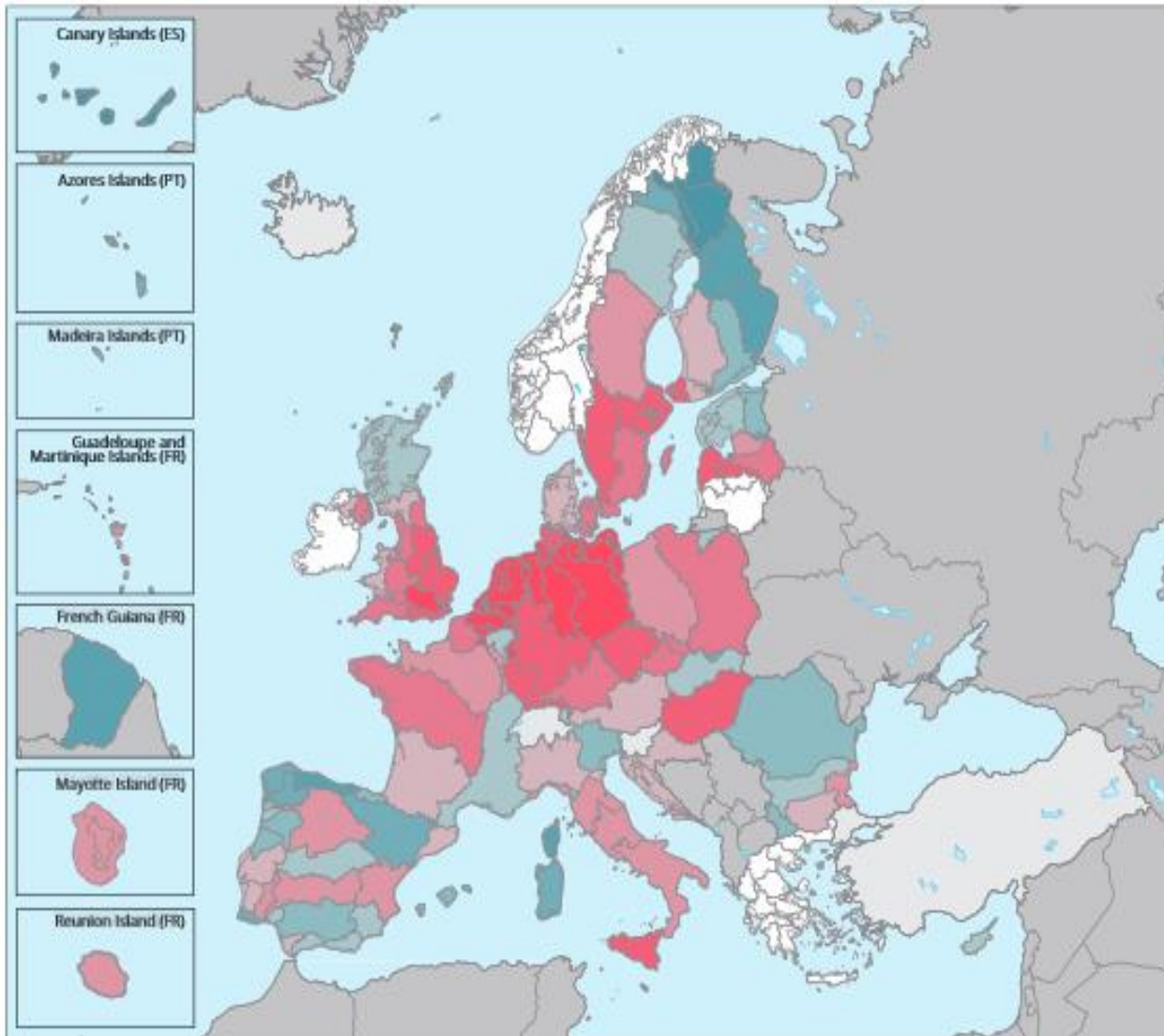
- **Groundwater: 74% in good chemical status**

- **Groundwater: 89% in good quantitative status**

*WFD simple map viewer: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/explore-interactive-maps/water-framework-directive-2nd-rbmp>*



# EU State of Water report 2018



Blue = most waterbodies in good status

Red = most waterbodies failing good status

But: masking progress as a result of One Out All Out

# Fit for the Future? What our Fitness Check tells us:

- Water deterioration halted
- Only 40% of surface water bodies and 74% of groundwater bodies in good status
- Significant progress in reducing pressures
- Better monitoring, more transparent information
- More integrated water management in place
- Significant investments made
- Slower progress than expected (2027 just over 7 years away)
- Long-standing problems: agriculture, hydromorphology, persistent chemicals
- Uneven implementation, uneven monitoring
- New problems: pharmaceuticals, micro-plastics, climate change
- The price for water is still not 'right'
- Legislation could be more efficient



# Water scarcity and droughts

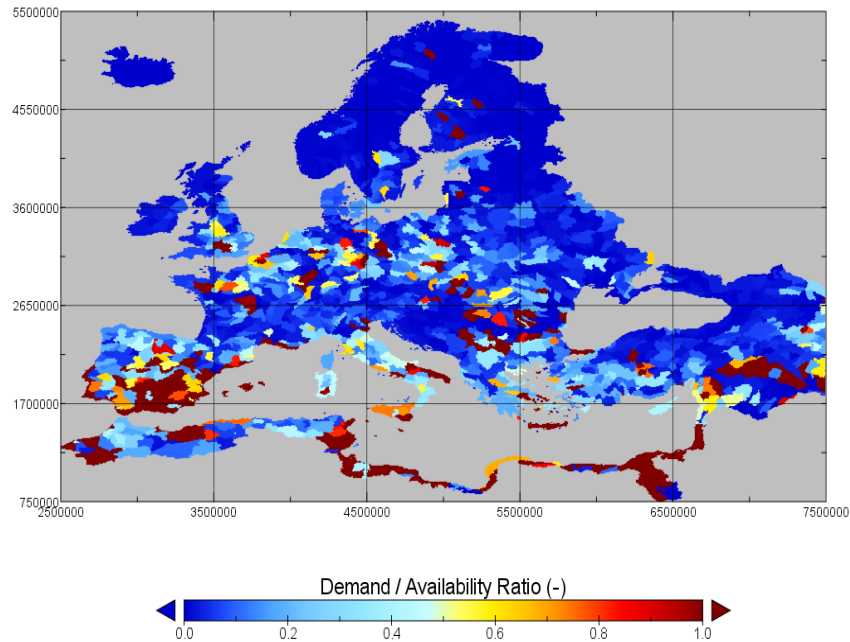
□ Water stress  
**today: 1/3 of  
the EU territory**  
all year round  
(not just southern  
Europe)

□ **Climate change**

=

- Frequency and intensity of droughts on the rise
- Extreme weather events

□ Cost of water shortages 1976-2006 **€100 billion** (EC, 2012)



# Proposal for a Regulation on water reuse

- Introducing **minimum requirements for reuse** in agricultural irrigation:
  - 1) **Parametric values** for quality of reclaimed water & **monitoring requirements (Annex I)** – addressing **HEALTH risks**
  - 2) **Key risk management tasks (Annex II)** – addressing **ENVIRONMENTAL risks** & potential additional health risks
- Currently in **ordinary legislative procedure**

# Proposal for DWD

## Latest policy developments

Drinking Water Proposal of the Commission adopted in 2018

Co-decision ongoing

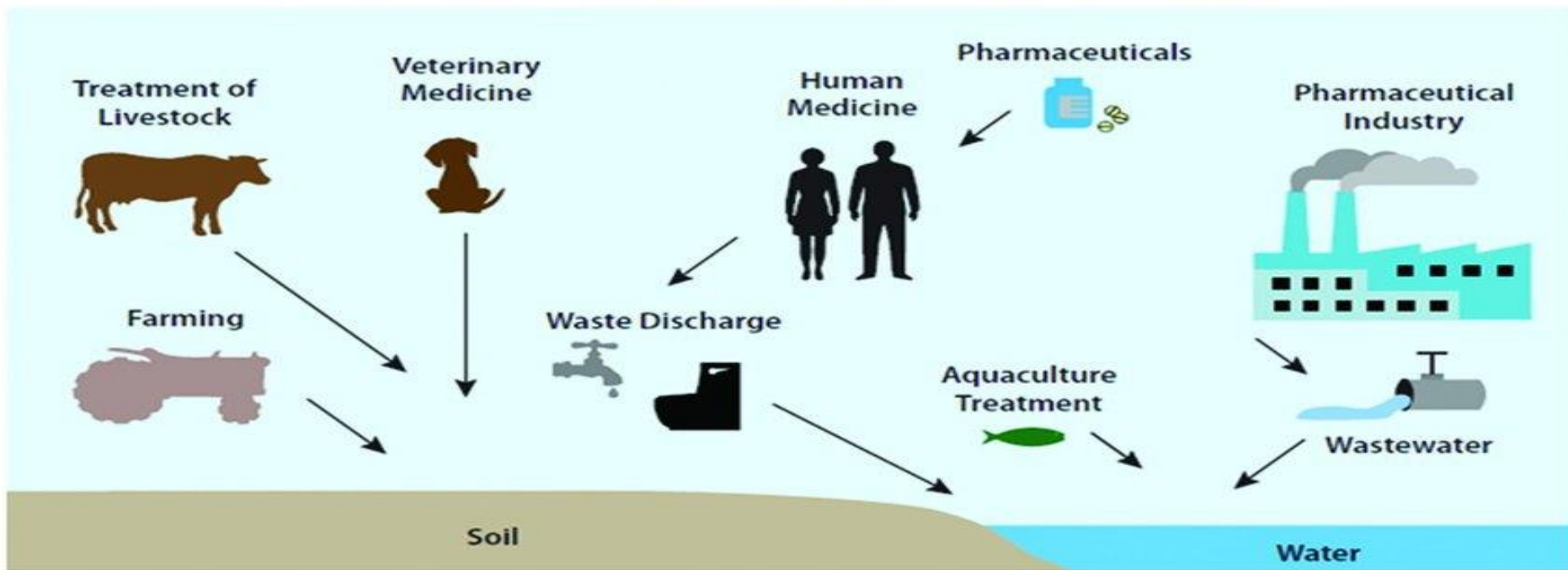
### **New elements:**

- Updated/new parameters → based on WHO Report
- Better protection through risk-based approach
- Improved access to water
- Improved access to information
  
- (and: materials in contact with water)

# Strategic approach to Pharmaceuticals: Pathways to the environment

*(adopted in March 2019)*

## SOURCES AND PATHWAYS OF ANTIBIOTICS IN THE ENVIRONMENT



*\*Communication from the Commission:  
European Union Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment,  
March 2019*

# Pharmaceuticals

- The "[Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment](#)" that the Commission presented, identifies six action areas concerning **all stages of the pharmaceutical life cycle**, where improvements can be made. The text addresses pharmaceuticals for human as well as for veterinary use.
- The **six areas** identified include actions to raise awareness and promote prudent use, improve training and risk assessment, gather monitoring data, incentivise "green design", reduce emissions from manufacturing, reduce waste and improve wastewater treatment.
- The approach includes **actions covering the whole lifecycle of pharmaceuticals**, from production through use to disposal and waste management.







**Thank you for your  
attention!**

**In case of any questions please contact  
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