Basic information

2022/0345(COD) COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure) Directive	Procedure completed
Urban wastewater treatment. Recast **Subject** 3.70.04 Water control and management, pollution of waterways, water pollution **Legislative priorities** Joint Declaration 2022 Joint Declaration 2023-24	

Key players

European Parliament

Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	TORVALDS Nils (Renew)	12/01/2023
	Shadow rapporteur CLUNE Deirdre (EPP) BALT Marek Paweł (S&D) AUKEN Margrete (Greens /EFA) FIOCCHI Pietro (ECR) LANCINI Danilo Oscar (ID) VILLUMSEN Nikolaj (The Left)	

Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
ITRE Industry, Research and Energy	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
AGRI Agriculture and Rural Development	HUITEMA Jan (Renew)	07/02/2023
JURI Legal Affairs	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	

Committee for opinion on the recast technique	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed

	JURI Legal Affairs	ADAMOWICZ Magdalena (EPP)	01/07/2023
Council of the European Union			

European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner
	Environment	SINKEVIČIUS Virginijus

European Economic and Social Committee
European Committee of the Regions

Key events

Date	Event	Reference	Summary
26/10/2022	Legislative proposal published	COM(2022)0541	Summary
19/01/2023	Committee referral announced in Parliament, 1st reading		
20/09/2023	Vote in committee, 1st reading		
26/09/2023	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading	A9-0276/2023	
05/10/2023	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0355/2023	Summary
05/10/2023	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/10/2023	Debate in Parliament		
05/10/2023	Matter referred back to the committee responsible for interinstitutional negotiations		
11/03/2024	Approval in committee of the text agreed at 1st reading interinstitutional negotiations	GEDA/A/(2024)133000	
10/04/2024	Decision by Parliament, 1st reading	T9-0222/2024	Summary
10/04/2024	Results of vote in Parliament		
05/11/2024	Act adopted by Council after Parliament's 1st reading		
27/11/2024	Final act signed		
12/12/2024	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information

Procedure reference	2022/0345(COD)
Procedure type	COD - Ordinary legislative procedure (ex-codecision procedure)
Procedure subtype	Recast
Legislative instrument	Directive
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 113

	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union TFEU 192-p1
Mandatory consultation of other institutions	European Economic and Social Committee European Committee of the Regions
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	ENVI/9/10493

Documentation gateway

European Parliament

Document type	Committee	Reference	Date	Summary
Committee draft report		PE745.327	27/03/2023	
Specific opinion	AGRI	PE746.722	03/05/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE746.950	09/05/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE747.010	09/05/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE748.961	09/05/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE748.962	09/05/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE748.963	09/05/2023	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE748.982	10/05/2023	
Committee draft report		PE752.769	30/08/2023	
Specific opinion	JURI	PE752.960	12/09/2023	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A9-0276/2023	26/09/2023	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0355/2023	05/10/2023	Summary
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T9-0222/2024	10/04/2024	Summary

Council of the EU

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Coreper letter confirming interinstitutional agreement	GEDA/A/(2024)133000	01/03/2024	
Draft final act	00085/2024/LEX	27/11/2024	

European Commission

Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
Legislative proposal	COM(2022)0541	26/10/2022	Summary
Document attached to the procedure	SEC(2022)0541	27/10/2022	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2022)0541	27/10/2022	
Document attached to the procedure	SWD(2022)0544	27/10/2022	

Commission response to text adopted in plenary	SP(2024)377	29/07/2024	

National parliaments

Document type	Parliament /Chamber	Reference	Date	Summary
Contribution	CZ_CHAMBER	COM(2022)0541	10/02/2023	
Contribution	CZ_SENATE	COM(2022)0541	13/03/2023	
Contribution	AT_BUNDESRAT	COM(2022)0541	21/03/2023	
Contribution	ES_PARLIAMENT	COM(2022)0541	21/03/2023	
Contribution	DE_BUNDESRAT	COM(2022)0541	11/04/2023	
Contribution	IT_SENATE	COM(2022)0541	26/06/2023	

Other institutions and bodies

Institution/body	Document type	Reference	Date	Summary
EESC	Economic and Social Committee: opinion, report	CES5433/2022	22/02/2023	
CofR	Committee of the Regions: opinion	CDR6179/2022	05/07/2023	

Additional information

Source	Document	Date
European Parliament	Briefing	09/04/2024
European Commission	EUR-Lex	

Meetings with interest representatives published in line with the Rules of Procedure

Rapporteurs, Shadow Rapporteurs and Committee Chairs

Transparency

Name	Role	Committee	Date	Interest representatives
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	05/03/2024	Finnish Water Utilities Association (FIWA)
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	05/03/2024	DANVA
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/03/2024	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	27/02/2024	Finnish Water Utilities Association (FIWA)
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	30/01/2024	German medicines manufacturers' association

TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	18/12/2023	EurEau Vesilaitosyhdistys
CLUNE Deirdre	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/12/2023	Irish Pharmaceutical Healthcare Association
CLUNE Deirdre	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/11/2023	European Federation of National Associations of Water Services
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	13/11/2023	Danfoss A/S
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/11/2023	Procter & Gamble International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/11/2023	IE
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	07/11/2023	Bayer AG
CLUNE Deirdre	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/11/2023	Aqua Publica Europea
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	26/10/2023	FleishmanHillard
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	13/10/2023	Pharma Industry Finland
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	09/10/2023	Finnish Water Utilities Association
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	11/09/2023	Mission of Iceland to the European Union
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/09/2023	Comité National Culture de Conchyliculture France
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	05/07/2023	Aqua Publica Europea
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	28/06/2023	Chemical Industry Federation of Finland (Kemianteollisuus ry)
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	14/06/2023	International Association for Soaps, Detergents and Maintenance Products
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	05/06/2023	Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	04/05/2023	Confederation of Danish Industry
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	03/05/2023	European Environmental Bureau SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	02/05/2023	European Federation of National Associations of Water Services
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	27/04/2023	European Environmental Bureau SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	27/04/2023	Kuntaliitto Sveriges Kommuner och Regioner
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/04/2023	Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	20/04/2023	Danfoss
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	14/04/2023	European Biochar Industry

TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	13/04/2023	European Environmental Bureau SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
FIOCCHI Pietro	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/04/2023	Cosmetics Europe
FIOCCHI Pietro	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	12/04/2023	Utilitalia, Imprese Acqua Ambiente Energia
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	05/04/2023	Unilever
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	05/04/2023	DRUŠTVO SVETOVNO OMREŽJE ZA ZELENO INFRASTRUKTURO WGIN
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	05/04/2023	Gothenburg European Office
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	04/04/2023	Permanent Representation of the Netherlands to the European Union
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	03/04/2023	Suomen Vesilaitosyhdistys ry
CLUNE Deirdre	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	29/03/2023	A2A Affordable Medicines Europe Aqua Publica Europea Association of the European Self-Care Industry BDEW Bundesverband der Energie- und Wasserwirtschaft e. V. Danfoss A/S European Biogas Association European Bureau for Conservation and Development European Environmental Bureau European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE Unilever Water Europe Xylem Inc. The European Federation of Public Service Unions EurEau Irish Water
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/03/2023	European Tissue Symposium Metsä Group
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/03/2023	Kemira Oyj
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/03/2023	European Tissue Symposium Metsä Group
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/03/2023	Kemira Oyj
CLUNE Deirdre	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/03/2023	Aqua Publica Europea Irish Water
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/03/2023	SGI Europe
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/03/2023	European Public Service Union
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	21/03/2023	IDEXX laboratories
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	16/03/2023	European Federation of National Associations of Water Services
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	14/03/2023	Bio-Rad Laboratories
AUKEN	Shadow			

Margrete	rapporteur	ENVI	14/03/2023	A2A
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	13/03/2023	Unilever
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	13/03/2023	Johnson & Johnson
BALT Marek Paweł	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	11/03/2023	Polski Związek Przemysłu Kosmetycznego ECODU WARTA SA Water Supply and Sewerage Joint Stock Company of the Częstochowa District "Wodociągi Częstochowskie" Politechnika częstochowska Polskie Stowarzyszenie Przemysłu Kosmetycznego i Detergentowego (PSPKD) polski związek pracodawców Polski Związek Pracodawców Przemysłu Farmaceutycznego Wodociągi Warszawskie
BALT Marek Paweł	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	09/03/2023	European Bureau for Conservation and Development WAREG EEB Committee of the Regions European Commission EurEau
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	09/03/2023	L'Oréal
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/03/2023	Medicines for Europe
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/03/2023	DANVA
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	07/03/2023	Kosmetyczni PL
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	06/03/2023	Chemical Industry Federation of Finland (Kemianteollisuus ry)
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	06/03/2023	Bio-Rad Laboratories
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	06/03/2023	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries EFPIA
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/03/2023	SGI Europe
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	28/02/2023	Danfoss A/S
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	28/02/2023	Water Europe
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	28/02/2023	Committee of the Regions
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	28/02/2023	European Alliance to Save Energy
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	28/02/2023	European Environmental Bureau SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	27/02/2023	Water Europe
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	27/02/2023	AESGP
TORVALDS				

Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	24/02/2023	Suomen Vesilaitosyhdistys ry
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	23/02/2023	Helsingin seudun ympäristöpalvelut HSY
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/02/2023	European Biogas Association
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	22/02/2023	Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the EU
HUITEMA Jan	Rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	21/02/2023	Aqua Publica Europea
HUITEMA Jan	Rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	20/02/2023	Bentley Systems, Incorporated
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	20/02/2023	Xylem Inc.
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	15/02/2023	Svenskt Vatten Vesilaitosyhdistys
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	14/02/2023	European Environmental Bureau
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	14/02/2023	Affordable Medicines Europe
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	14/02/2023	Merck Sharp & Dohme Europe Belgium SRL
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	13/02/2023	AESGP (Association of the European Self-Care Industry)
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	13/02/2023	German Association of Energy and Water Industries (BDEW)
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	10/02/2023	European Environmental Bureau
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	09/02/2023	Affordable Medicines Europe
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	09/02/2023	BDEW Bundesverband der Energie- und Wasserwirtschaft e. V.
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	09/02/2023	Stockholms universitet
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	Maa- ja metsätaloustuottajain Keskusliitto – Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	08/02/2023	German Medicines Manufacturers' Association
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2023	ECOLAB Grundfos Holding A/S SUEZ Group Xylem Inc.
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2023	Bentley Systems, Incorporated
CLUNE Deirdre	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2023	ECOLAB Grundfos Holding A/S Veolia Environnement Xylem Inc.
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2023	Ragn Sells AS
TORVALDS				

Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	07/02/2023	EurEau
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/02/2023	Danfoss A/S
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	06/02/2023	SURFRIDER FOUNDATION EUROPE
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	06/02/2023	German Pharmaceutical Industry Association
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	06/02/2023	Kuntaliitto, Brysselin toimisto
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	06/02/2023	Bentley Systems, Incorporated
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	03/02/2023	Aqua Publica Europea
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	03/02/2023	Stora Enso Oyj
HUITEMA Jan	Rapporteur for opinion	AGRI	01/02/2023	Bureau Brussel Vewin - Unie van Waterschappen
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/02/2023	Ålands landskapsregering
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	01/02/2023	The Association of Public Services and Enterprises Austria (VÖWG)
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	31/01/2023	Verband der öffentlichen Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft Österreichs
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	31/01/2023	Haleon
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	31/01/2023	Permanent Representation of Finland to the EU
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	30/01/2023	Aqua Publica Europea
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	30/01/2023	Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	26/01/2023	Cosmetics Europe
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	26/01/2023	Politico Newspaper
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	25/01/2023	Servier
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	20/01/2023	Kemira Oyj
TORVALDS Nils	Rapporteur	ENVI	20/01/2023	Svenskt Vatten
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	24/11/2022	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
AUKEN Margrete	Shadow rapporteur	ENVI	15/11/2022	Kemira Oyj

Other Members

Transparency

Name	Date	Interest representatives
NEVADO DEL CAMPO Elena	16/06/2026	EFPIA
NEVADO DEL CAMPO Elena	29/04/2026	EFPIA
BOCHEŃSKI Tobiasz	20/02/2025	Polski Związek Pracodawców Przemysłu Farmaceutycznego
TORVALDS Nils	17/04/2024	Chemical Industry Federation of Finland (Kemianteollisuus ry)
RODRÍGUEZ RAMOS María Soraya	29/11/2023	ASOCIACION NACIONAL DE PERFUMERIA Y COSMETICA
LUENA César	29/11/2023	STANPA
VONDRA Alexandr	12/09/2023	Czech association of water industry
FRITZON Heléne	03/07/2023	Svenskt Vatten
KOKKALIS Petros	26/04/2023	Association of Public Services and Enterprises Austria (VÖWG)
WÖLKEN Tiemo	26/04/2023	Verband Kommunaler Unternehmen e.V. Verband der öffentlichen Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft Österreichs
LUENA César	26/04/2023	Association of Public Services and Enterprises Austria
VERHEYEN Sabine	25/04/2023	Verband Kommunaler Unternehmen e.V.
BERNHUBER Alexander	25/04/2023	Verband der öffentlichen Wirtschaft und Gemeinwirtschaft Österreichs
SCHNEIDER Christine	25/04/2023	Verband Kommunaler Unternehmen e.V.
RIPA Manuela	25/04/2023	Virginia Hagn, Vöwg
WÖLKEN Tiemo	19/04/2023	European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations
LIMMER Sylvia	01/02/2023	VÖWG
CHAHIM Mohammed	31/01/2023	VOWG
O'SULLIVAN Grace	24/01/2023	Uisce Éireann - Irish Water

Final act	
Directive 2024/3019 OJ OJ L 12.12.2024	Summary
Corrigendum to final act 32024L3019R(01) OJ OJ L 16.01.2025	

Urban wastewater treatment. Recast

2022/0345(COD) - 10/04/2024 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 481 votes to 79, with 26 abstentions, a legislative resolution on the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast).

The European Parliament's position adopted at first reading under the ordinary legislative procedure amends the proposal as follows:

Subject matter

This proposed Directive:

- lays down rules on the **collection, treatment, and discharge of urban wastewater**, to protect the environment and human health, in line with the One Health approach, while progressively reducing greenhouse gas emissions to sustainable levels, improving the energy balance of urban wastewater collection and treatment activities and contributing to the transition towards a circular economy;

- lays down rules on access to sanitation for all, on transparency of the urban wastewater sector, on the regular surveillance of public health relevant parameters in urban wastewaters and on the implementation of the polluter-pay principle.

Collecting systems

Member States should ensure that all agglomerations of 2 000 p.e. and above are provided with collecting systems. Agglomerations between 1 000 and 2 000 p.e. should comply with the requirements of paragraph 1 by 31 December 2035.

Member States with a large number of small agglomerations affected by the Directive's new urban wastewater collection and treatment requirements for agglomerations between 1 000 and 2 000 p.e. should be allowed to set longer deadlines for compliance with these new requirements in their first national implementation plan. Due to their specific situation, Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia should set longer deadlines for compliance with the new requirements.

Individual systems

Where it can be demonstrated that the establishment of a centralised urban waste water collection system or connection to a collecting system would not be in the interest of the environment or human health, would not be technically feasible or would entail excessive costs, and only in such cases, Member States should be authorised to use individual systems for the collection, storage and/or treatment of urban waste water, provided that such systems achieve the same level of environmental and health protection as secondary and tertiary treatment.

Integrated urban wastewater management plans

By **31 December 2033**, Member States should ensure that an integrated urban wastewater management plan is established for drainage areas of agglomerations of **100 000 p.e. and above**.

Integrated urban wastewater management plans should be reviewed at least every six years after their establishment and updated where necessary.

Secondary treatment

Member States should ensure that discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants in agglomerations of between **1 000 and 2 000 p.e.** comply with the requirements for secondary treatment by **31 December 2035** at the latest. Discharges of urban waste water may be subject to less stringent treatment when they are discharged into: (i) waters located in high mountain regions (at an altitude of more than 1 500 metres); (ii) deep marine waters in the case of discharges of waste water from agglomerations with a p.e. of less than 150 000 located in sparsely populated outermost regions; (iii) water from small agglomerations of between 1 000 and 2 000 p.e. located in cold climate regions.

Tertiary treatment

Tertiary treatment (i.e. elimination of nitrogen and phosphorus) should be applied in 30 % of treatment plants of 150 000 p.e. or more by 31 December 2033 and in 70% of treatment plants by 31 December 2036. By 31 December 2039, tertiary treatment should be applied in all treatment plants of 150 000 p.e. or more. All treatment plants of 10 000 p.e. or more should be covered from 2045.

By derogation, Member States may decide that an individual urban wastewater treatment plant situated in an area included in the list of areas in their territory which are subject to eutrophication should not be subject to the requirements laid down in the Directive if it can be shown that the minimum percentage reduction in the overall load entering all urban waste water treatment plants in that area reaches:

- at least **75 %** for total phosphorus and at least **75 %** for total nitrogen from the date of entry into force of this Directive;

- **82.5 %** for total phosphorus and **80 %** for total nitrogen by 31 December 2039;

- **87.5 %** for total phosphorus and **82.5 %** for total nitrogen by 31 December 2045.

Quaternary treatment

Member States should ensure that discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants treating a load of 150 000 p.e. and above meet the relevant requirements for quaternary treatment of urban wastewater before discharge into receiving waters by: (a) 31 December 2033 for discharges from 20 % of these urban wastewater treatment plants; (b) 31 December 2039 for discharges from 60 % of these urban wastewater treatment plants; (c) **31 December 2045** for all discharges from these urban wastewater treatment plants.

Quaternary treatment should first focus on organic micropollutants, which represent a significant part of the pollution.

Extended producer responsibility

The directive introduces extended responsibility for producers of medicinal products for human use and cosmetic products, to cover the costs of quaternary treatment (the elimination of micropollutants from urban wastewater). They should cover at least 80% of the costs, which will be supplemented by national funding.

Member States should promote the **reuse** of treated wastewater from urban wastewater treatment plants, particularly in areas subject to water stress.

Lastly, Member States should take preventive measures to limit the possibility of intentionally or unintentionally discharged **microplastics** ending up in urban wastewater and sludge.

Urban wastewater treatment. Recast

2022/0345(COD) - 12/12/2024 - Final act

PURPOSE: to protect the environment and public health, to make progress in achieving climate neutrality for urban wastewater collection and treatment activities, to improve access to sanitation and to ensure the regular surveillance of parameters relevant to public health.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast).

CONTENT: the revised directive:

- lays down rules on the **collection, treatment and discharge of urban wastewater**, to protect the environment and human health, in line with the One Health approach, while progressively reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to sustainable levels, improving the energy balance of urban wastewater collection and treatment activities and contributing to the transition towards a circular economy;

- establishes rules on access to sanitation for all, on transparency of the urban wastewater sector, on the regular surveillance of relevant public health parameters in urban wastewater and on the implementation of the polluter-pays principle.

Collecting systems and calculation of the load of an agglomeration

Member States must ensure that all agglomerations with a population equivalent (p.e) of 2000 or more are equipped with collecting systems and that all their domestic waste water sources are connected to these systems. Agglomerations with a population **equivalent of 1000 or more but less than 2000 p.e** must comply with these obligations by **31 December 2035**. Member States with a large number of small agglomerations affected by the new requirements for the collecting and treatment of urban waste water for agglomerations with a population equivalent of between 1000 and 2000 p.e are allowed to set **longer deadlines** for compliance with these new requirements.

If the installation of a collecting system is not justified, or is not feasible or cost-effective, Member States may use individual systems for the collection and treatment of urban waste water. The directive sets a deadline of 2033 for Member States to draw up an **integrated urban waste water management plan** covering agglomerations with a p.e of more than 100 000, and a deadline of 2039 for agglomerations at risk with a p.e of between 10 000 and 100 000. These integrated management plans will be reviewed at least every six years.

Secondary treatment

The directive extends the obligation to apply secondary treatment (i.e. **removal of biodegradable organic matter**) to urban waste water before its discharge into the environment to all agglomerations with a **p.e of 1000 or more by 2035**. The directive introduces a number of derogations, notably for small agglomerations discharging into coastal waters, for discharges into less sensitive areas and for Member States that have recently joined the EU, such as Romania, Bulgaria and Croatia.

Tertiary treatment

Tertiary treatment (i.e. **elimination of nitrogen and phosphorus**) will be applied in **30 %** of treatment plants of 150 000 p.e. or more by 31 December **2033** and in **70%** of treatment plants by 31 December **2036**. By 31 December 2039, tertiary treatment will be applied in all treatment plants of 150 000 p.e. or more. All treatment plants of **10 000 p.e**. or more should be covered from **2045**, with intermediate targets set in 2033, 2036 and 2039.

By way of derogation, Member States may decide that an individual urban wastewater treatment plant located in an area on the list of areas of their territory that are subject to eutrophication will not be subject to the requirements established by the directive, under certain conditions.

Quaternary treatment

Member States must ensure that discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants treating a load of **150 000 p.e. and above** meet the relevant requirements for quaternary treatment of urban wastewater before discharge into receiving waters by: (a) 31 December **2033** for discharges from 20 % of these urban wastewater treatment plants; (b) 31 December **2039** for discharges from 60 % of these urban wastewater treatment plants; (c) 31 December **2045** for all discharges from these urban wastewater treatment plants.

In order to cover the additional costs due to quaternary treatment and in accordance with the polluter pays principle, manufacturers of pharmaceutical and cosmetic products which cause pollution of urban waste water by micropollutants will have to contribute at least 80% of the costs of this additional treatment, in accordance with the **'polluter pays' principle**.

Energy neutrality and renewable energy

Member States will have to ensure that energy audits of urban waste water treatment plants and collecting systems in operation are carried out every four years. These audits must include an assessment of the potential for cost-effective measures to reduce energy consumption and increase the use and production of renewable energy.

The new rules introduce an energy neutrality target, meaning that by 2045, urban waste water treatment plants treating a load of 10 000 p.e or more will have to use energy produced from renewable sources by the installations concerned.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 1.1.2025.

TRANSPOSITION: no later than 31.7.2027.

Urban wastewater treatment. Recast

2022/0345(COD) - 26/10/2022 - Legislative proposal

PURPOSE: to revise the rules on treating urban wastewater to better protect the health of Europeans and the environment.

PROPOSED ACT: Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council.

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: the European Parliament decides in accordance with the ordinary legislative procedure and on an equal footing with the Council.

BACKGROUND: the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) was adopted in 1991. Its objective being to protect the environment from adverse effects of wastewater discharges from urban sources and specific industries. Member States are required to ensure that wastewater from all agglomerations above 2 000 inhabitants is collected and treated according to EU minimum standards. Since its adoption the quality of European rivers, lakes and seas has greatly improved. There is a high level of compliance with the Directive across the EU, with 98% of wastewater collected and 92% satisfactorily treated.

However, pollution remains and needs to be addressed to achieve a pollution-free environment by 2050. This includes pollution from **smaller cities** outside the scope of the Directive and pollution caused by **storm water overflows**. At present, micropollutants such as residues from pharmaceuticals and cosmetics are also not covered. These residues are frequently found in all our water bodies and have a detrimental effect on nature.

Moreover, recent experience has shown that viruses can be tracked with high reliability in wastewaters: this provides precious information for public health decisions. To be able to collect the necessary data has likewise required an update of the Directive.

PURPOSE: therefore, this Commission proposal aims to **revise the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive** to help Europeans benefit from cleaner rivers, lakes, groundwaters and seas, while making wastewater treatment more cost-effective. To make the best possible use of wastewater as a resource, it is proposed to aim for **energy-neutrality of the sector by 2040** and improve the quality of sludge to allow for more reuse contributing thus to a more circular economy.

Subject matter

The proposed Directive lays down rules on the collection, treatment, and discharge of urban wastewater to protect the environment and human health while progressively eliminating greenhouse gas emissions and improving the energy balance of urban wastewater collection and treatment activities. It also lays down rules on access to sanitation, on transparency of the urban wastewater sector and on the regular surveillance of public health relevant parameters in urban wastewaters.

Scope

To further reduce pollution, the new rules **enlarge the scope** of the current Directive (which applies to cities with over 2 000 inhabitants) to cover all cities with more than **1 000 inhabitants**. The new rules will also cover **rainwater** and will require EU countries to establish integrated urban wastewater management plans in large cities (over 100 000 inhabitants initially, as well as later for cities from 10 000 inhabitants, where needed). This will reduce direct emissions of organic matter, nitrogen and phosphorus to water bodies, but also litter and **microplastics** captured by urban runoff. It also introduces better control of individual systems such as septic tanks, stricter standards for nutrients, and standards for micropollutants. It also requires the monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions and microplastics.

Objectives

The revision aims to:

- make the wastewater sector **energy-neutral** and move it towards climate neutrality by reducing energy use, using the larger surfaces of some wastewater treatments plants to produce solar/wind energy, encouraging water reuse and using sludge to produce biogas, which can substitute natural gas;

- make industry responsible for treating toxic micropollutants (‘**polluter pays’** principle) that are released into the environment from the use of their products, especially harmful residues from the pharmaceutical and cosmetics sector;

- improve access to **sanitation** in public spaces and for the 2 million most vulnerable and marginalised people in the EU;

- require the **monitoring** of health parameters in wastewater in order to enhance the EU's preparedness against pandemics or other major public health threats, as is currently being done for COVID-19.

These measures will be progressively applied until 2040.

Urban wastewater treatment. Recast

2022/0345(COD) - 05/10/2023 - Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 420 votes to 62, with 84 abstentions, amendments to the proposal for a directive of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast).

The matter was referred back to the committee responsible for inter-institutional negotiations.

Subject matter

This Directive should:

- lay down rules on the collection, treatment, and discharge of urban wastewater, to protect the environment and health, in accordance with the One Health approach, while progressively reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the energy balance of urban wastewater collection and treatment activities while contributing to the transition towards a circular economy;

- lay down rules on access to sanitation for all, on transparency of the urban wastewater sector and on the regular surveillance of public health relevant parameters in urban wastewaters, and through integrated wastewater management planning it aims to increase synergies with climate change adaptation and urban ecosystem restoration action.

Collections systems

By 31 December 2032, Member States should ensure that all agglomerations with a population equivalent (p.e.) of between **750 and 2 000** are equipped with collection systems. In addition, Member States should take steps to ensure that the competent authorities assess the levels of waste water leakage and associated emissions on their territory and of the potential to reduce such leakage.

Member States should establish minimum requirements based on guidance provided by the Commission within 24 months of the entry into force of this Directive on the design, operation, and maintenance of **individual systems** across the Union and should establish the requirements for the regular inspections.

Integrated urban wastewater management plans

Integrated urban wastewater management plans, including the specification of parts completed and elements yet to be put in place, should be made available to the Commission on request within three months of their publication. The Commission should take appropriate action regarding the integrated urban wastewater management plans established by Member States, in the event that such plans do not include at least the elements set out in Annex V.

Member States should: (i) aim at increasing green space in urban areas in order to reduce storm water overflows based on natural solutions; (ii) ensure that integrated urban wastewater management plans are reviewed every five years after their establishment and updated where necessary.

Tertiary treatment

By 31 December 2038, Member States should ensure that all urban wastewater treatment plants treating a load of 100 000 p.e. and above are subject to tertiary treatment.

By way of derogation, Member States may decide that an individual urban waste water treatment plant situated in an area included in the list of areas in their territory which are subject to eutrophication should not be subject to the requirements laid down in the Directive if it can be shown that the minimum percentage reduction in the overall load entering all urban waste water treatment plants in that area reaches:

- **90%** for total phosphorus and **75%** for total nitrogen by 31 December 2035;

- **93%** for total phosphorus and **80%** for total nitrogen by 31 December 2040. Days during which the effluent temperature falls below **12 °C** are not relevant for the calculation of nitrogen removal.

Quaternary treatment

All urban wastewater treatment plants of **150 000 p.e. and above** should provide quaternary treatment, as those facilities represent a significant share of micro-pollutant discharges in the environment. For agglomerations of between 35 000 p.e. and 150 000 p.e., Member States should be required to apply quaternary treatment to areas identified as sensitive to pollution with micro-pollutants based on clear criteria.

Extended producer responsibility

Members considered that extended producer responsibility should be complemented by national financing set up for the upgrade of urban wastewater treatment plants in order to ensure there are no unintended consequences for the availability, affordability and accessibility of vital products, in particular medicines, and to ensure sufficient funds are available to operators. The national funding should not amount to more than 20% and should not undermine the polluter pays principle.

The Commission should assess the possible need to extend the scope of Extended Producer Responsibility, in particular to products containing **microplastics and Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances** (PFAS) placed on the market and taking into account any restrictions on PFAS.

Energy neutrality of urban wastewater treatment plants

Energy audits of urban wastewater treatment plants and collection systems should include identification of the potential for cost-effective use, reduction of energy consumption, recovery and use of waste heat either onsite or via a district system or production of renewable energy.

Member States should ensure that the total annual energy from renewable sources, generated at national level **on- or off-site** by urban wastewater treatment plants treating a load of 10 000 p.e. and above and independently if it is used on- or off-site the urban wastewater treatment plant by their owners or operators, is equivalent to at least: (i) **50 %** of the total annual energy used by such plants by 31 December 2033; (ii) **75 %** of the total annual energy used by such plants by 31 December 2036.

Water reuse and discharges of urban wastewater

Member States should systematically promote the reuse of treated wastewater from all urban wastewater treatment plants, especially in water-stressed areas and for industrial purposes, if there is no adverse effect for the environment and health risk management measures have been implemented. Where treated wastewater is reused for agricultural irrigation, it should comply with certain requirements.

Microplastics

Micro- and nanoplastic pollution is often caused by dyeing and washing processes of synthetic textiles as synthetic microfibres are released into wastewater. The Commission should submit a **legislative proposal**, accompanied by an impact assessment, in line with its initiative on 'Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce its impact on the environment' to oblige the fitting of microfibre filters for new washing machines at EU level by 31 December 2027.