Implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive

EC report: Findings and Recommendations

LIFE Platform Meeting
Brussels, 14 October 2025

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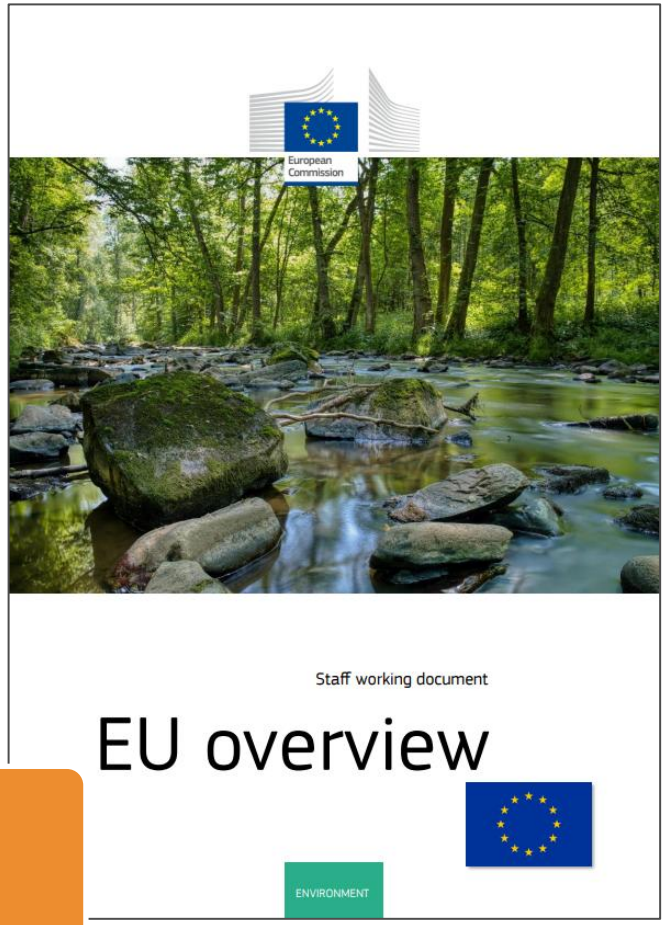
European Commission

EU Water Package
4 February 2025

EU Report to Council and Parliament- WFD + FD

SWD- EU Overview

22 SWD- Country Specific Assessment



- Report: EUR-Lex - 52025DC0002 - EN - EUR-Lex

- MS assessments: Implementation Reports - European Commission

European Commission

Assessment of 3rd River Basin management Plans under the Water framework directive

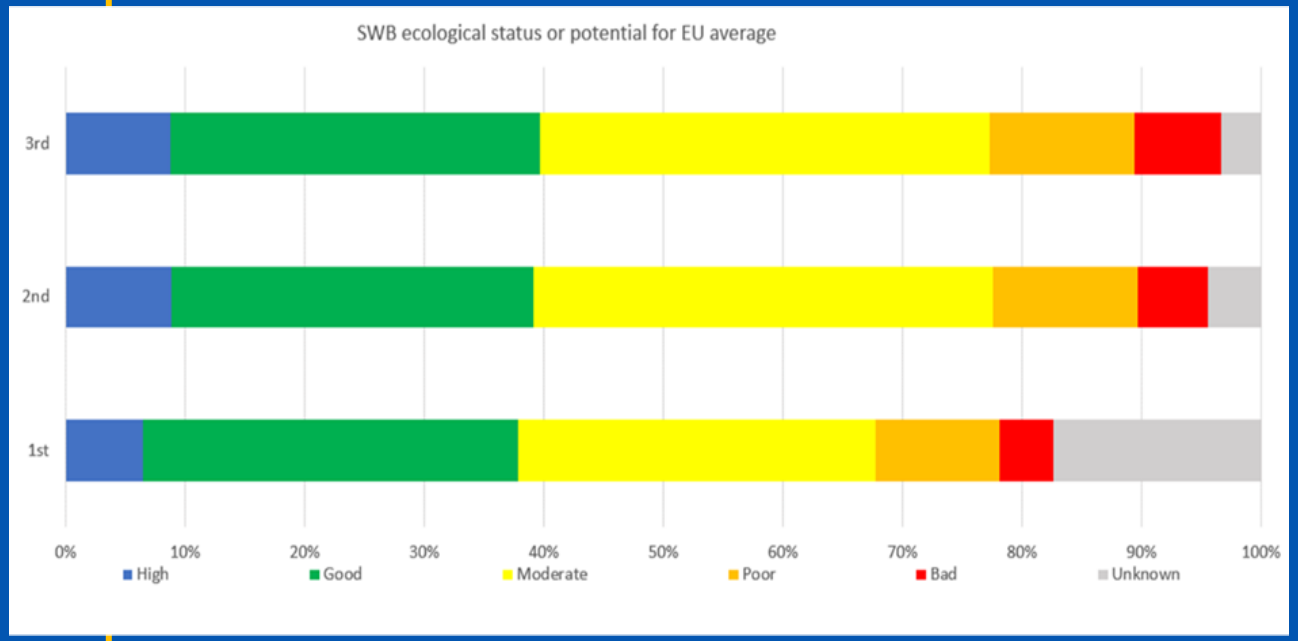
Positive trends:

- Member States have generally improved knowledge and monitoring of surface and ground water bodies, increased spending, and improved application of EU water-related legislation, though there are considerable regional differences.
- Most groundwater bodies also continue to achieve good quantitative and chemical status.

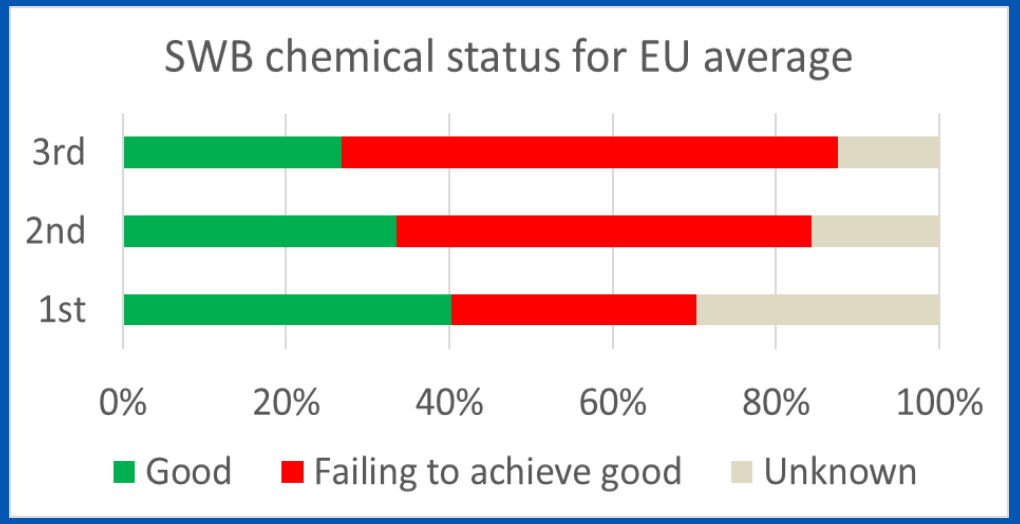
However:

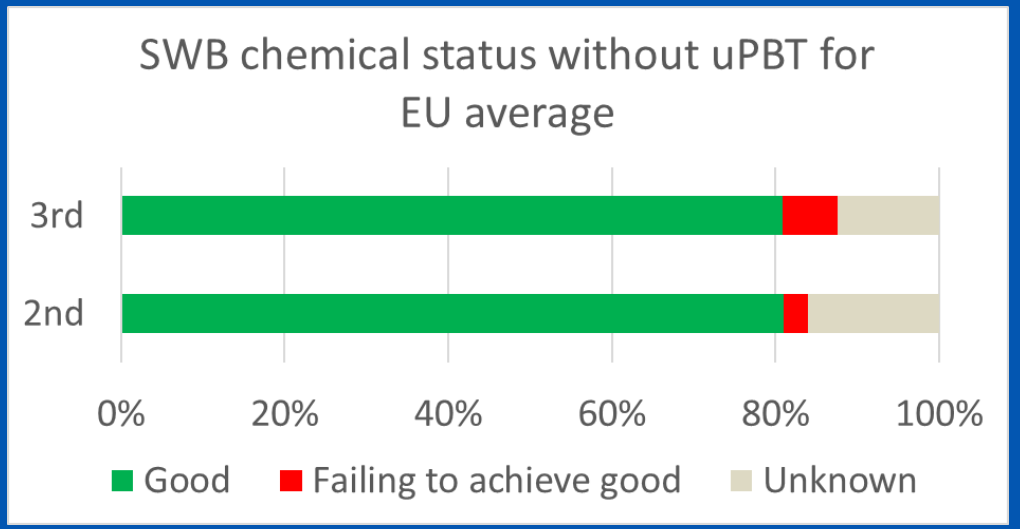
- Significant work is needed to meet EU targets on freshwater quality and quantity.
- The average health of EU surface water bodies is critical, with only 39.5% achieving good ecological status, and only 26.8% achieving good chemical status.
- Water scarcity and drought are also growing concerns across most of the EU.

Surface Waters



Ecological Status

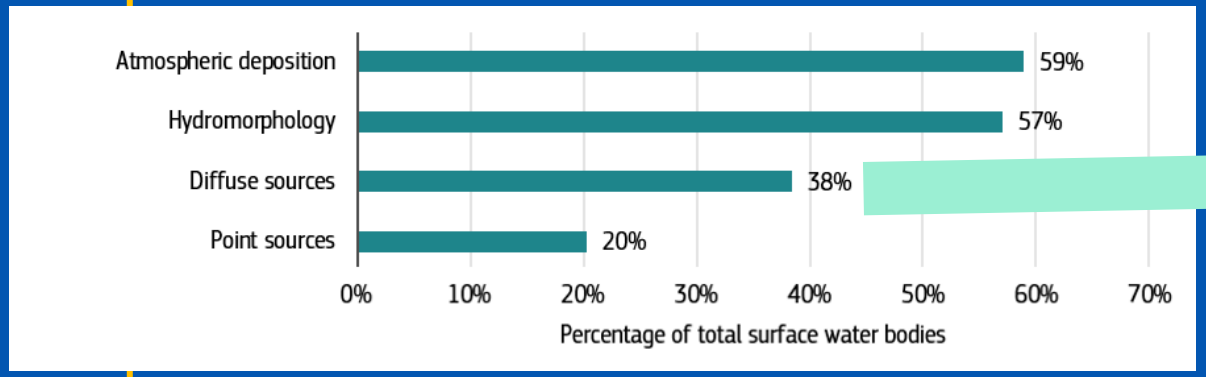




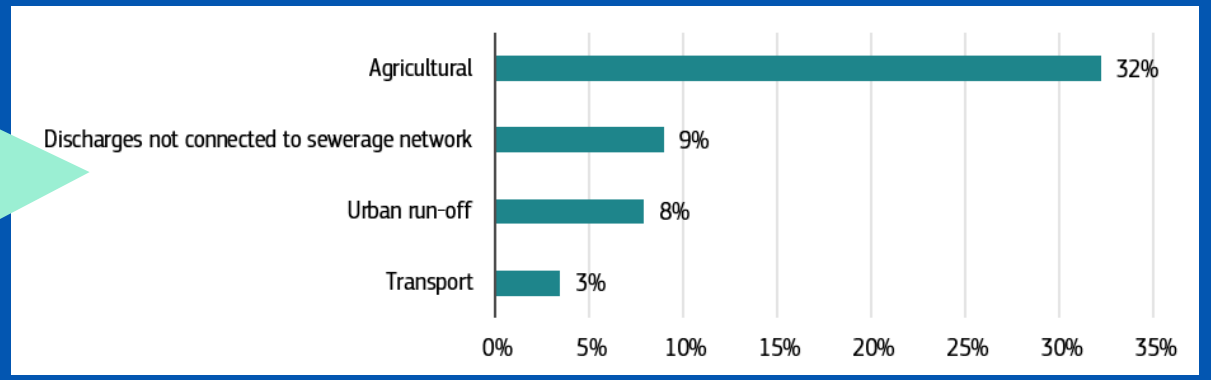
Chemical Status

Surface Waters

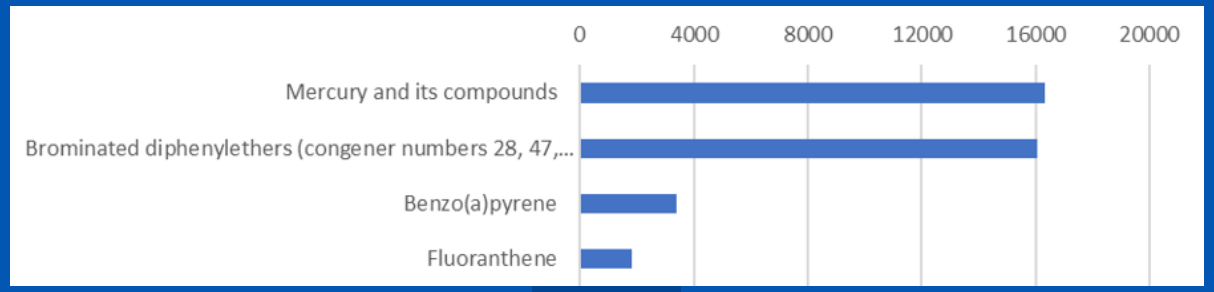
Top pressures



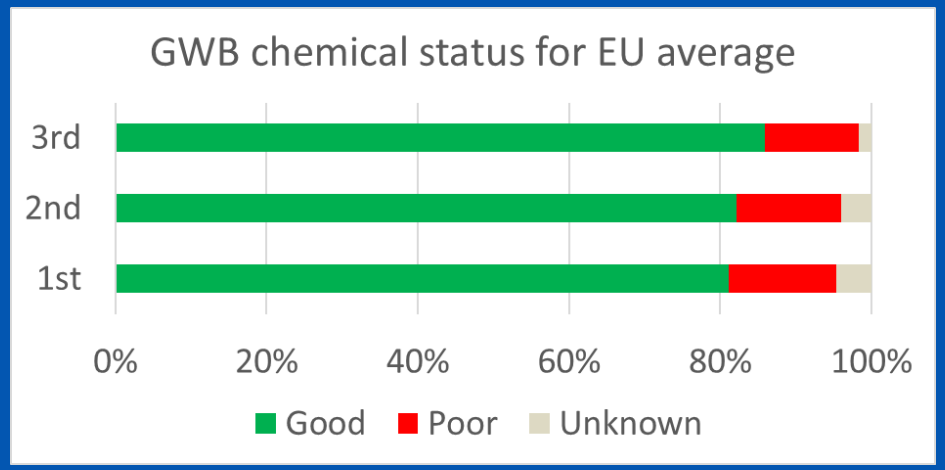
Main sources of diffuse pollution (other than atmospheric)

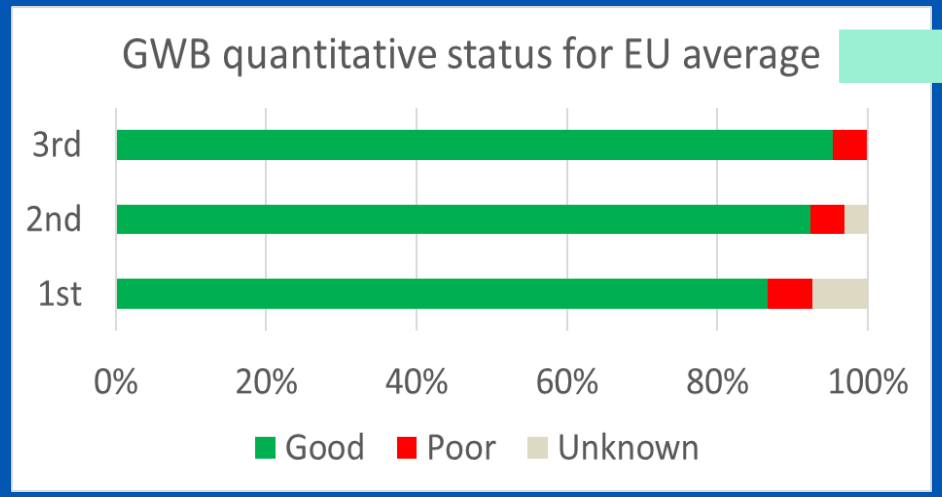


Top Priority Substances (of 45)

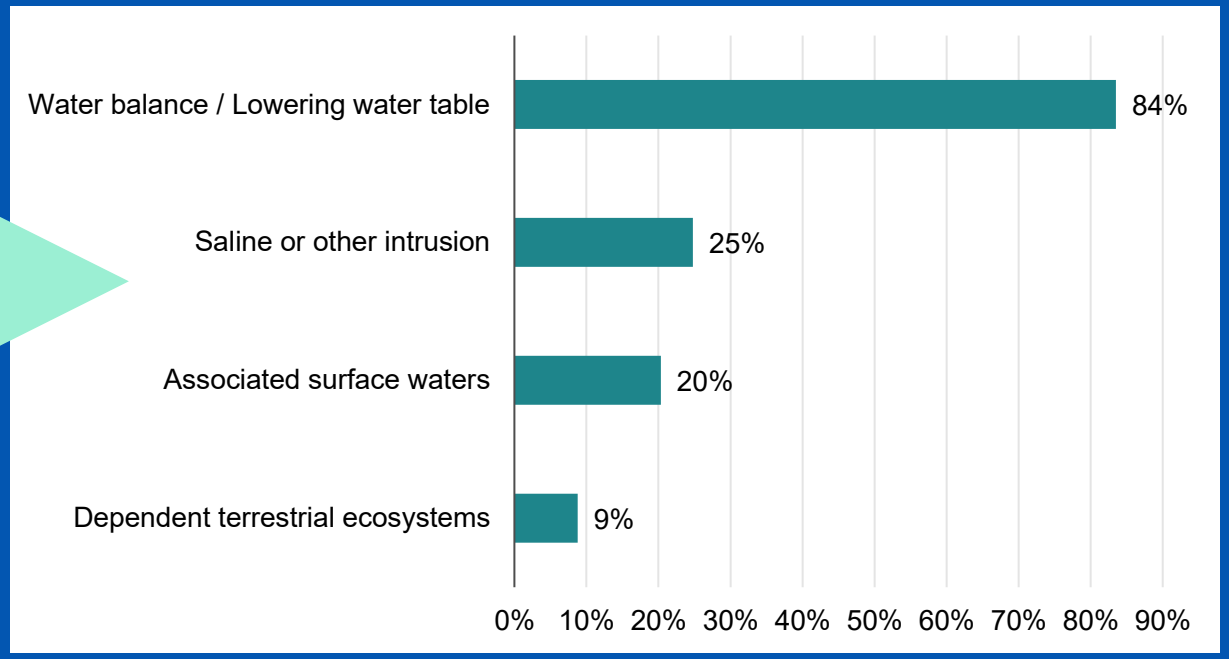


Groundwaters



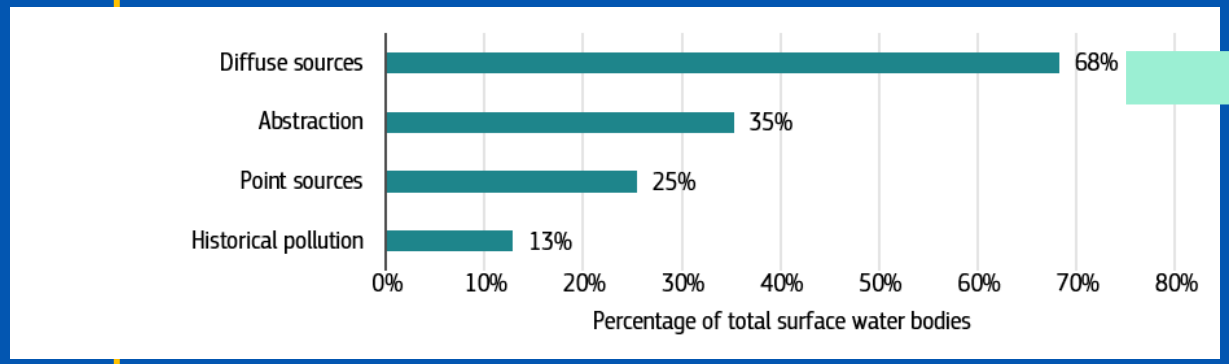


Mains reasons for failing good quantitative status for groundwaters

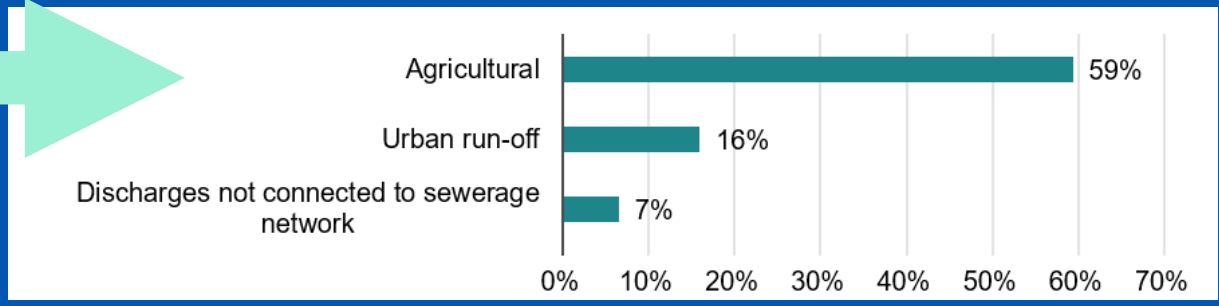


Groundwaters

Top pressures



Main diffuse pollution sources (other than atmospheric)



Key conclusions: Monitoring

ACHIEVEMENTS	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
Overall knowledge and monitoring of water bodies has increased, with significant improvements in: ➢ **The geographic coverage of monitoring networks.** ➢ **Number of biological and chemical water-quality elements covered.** ➢ **Number of priority substances monitored.**	➢ Gaps in monitoring certain substances in some Member States. ➢ Differences in methodology (practices, frequencies and parameters) bring about comparability issues and raise questions on the reported status. (e.g. differences in biota monitoring) ➢ Gaps in status assessment remain, particularly re. SWB chemical status

Key conclusions: Ecological Status

ACHIEVEMENTS	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
➢ **Limited improvement in % of good ecological status or potential, but noticeable improvement in certain biological and physico-chemical quality parameters is observed.** ➢ **Moderate or small improvement in ecological status observed in some MS is accompanied by significant reduction in others MS.** ➢ **Several measures on HYMO are planned (fish passes, barrier removal, floodplains restoration, e-flows, NBS)**	➢ Eutrophication and hydro-morphological pressure continue to have a major impact. ➢ Work on reference conditions remains incomplete. ➢ Harmonization gaps re. monitoring practices, etc. ➢ Abstraction pressures are increasing across the EU, while permitting regime and water pricing are not being fully and progress on ecological flows remains slow. ➢ More barriers are also being built. ➢ HPPs continue to represent a significant pressure and more mitigation measures are required.

Key conclusions: Chemical Status

ACHIEVEMENTS	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
➢ **Overall significant deterioration in SWBs (apparently), while there is a small improvement in GWBs.** ➢ **Stable results or moderate improvement in chemical status observed in some MS is accompanied by significant reduction in others MS (better knowledge may play a big role)** ➢ **uPBTs remain the major source of lack of compliance > significant better picture without uPBTs**	➢ More decisive action needed on uPBTs and other priority substances. ➢ Limited progress in quantitative gaps assessments to better tackle pollution from nutrients and pesticides. ➢ Supplementary measures in agriculture remain largely voluntary with limited take up

Key conclusions: Quantitative Status

ACHIEVEMENTS	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
➢ **Overall, good quantitative status appears secured (95%), but there are large differences across MS** ➢ **More systemic consideration of climate change impacts** ➢ **More countries have adopted drought management plans and some have adopted overall national water strategies**	➢ Water scarcity is perceived as a growing issue in most Member States, ➢ Over-abstractions reported as being responsible for failure to achieve good quantitative (or ecological status) of a significant portion of water bodies. ➢ Permitting/prior authorization regimes should be strengthened in several MS (and brought in compliance with WFD provisions) ➢ Unauthorised/illegal abstraction remains an issue ➢ not all Member States adequately consider the needs of groundwater-dependent ecosystems, ➢ Effects of prolonged droughts affected the EU after 2021 not covered in the assessment

Key conclusions: Governance and Horizontal issues

- Governance challenges remains: strengthening coordination mechanisms across sectors and across levels.
- Synergies in implementation with the FD and the MSFD still not fully exploited.
- Implementation of the planned PoMs remains a challenge (lack of funding, delays, insufficient administrative capacity, etc.).
- No long-term investment plans, no gap assessments to inform decision making in key areas (nutrients, pesticides) and in most cases unclear secure funding for newPoMs.
- Economic analysis has improved but often unclear how this is used to inform the choices on cost recovery, pricing and more generally the design of the PoMs.
- Potential to scale up transboundary cooperation.
- Digitalization of water data still largely unexploited in many MS.

Key recommendations clusters RBMPs

- Increase compliance with EU water laws by adhering to pollution limits, particularly nutrient pollution from agriculture, and ensuring that wastewater discharge is dealt with properly to protect the environment and human health;
- Ensure sufficient financing to address funding gaps and guarantee effective implementation of water management measures;
- Implement additional measures to address persistent environmental challenges, such as chemical pollution;
- Promote water reuse and increase efficiency and circularity to prevent aquifer overexploitation, combat illegal abstractions, and mitigate droughts.

Assessment of 2nd Flood hazard and risk maps and 2nd Flood risk management plans under the Floods Directive

Assessment of 2nd FHRMs and FRMPs

ACHIEVEMENTS	AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT
➢ **In most MS fluvial flooding remains the most significant source, but more MS now also elaborated hazard maps for pluvial floods,** ➢ **Most MS considered climate change impacts and scenarios,** ➢ **The number of measures has increased, and priorization, cost estimates and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) has improved,** ➢ **Spatial planning and Nature Based Solutions are now topics in most FRMPs,**	➢ Consider more widely pluvial flooding and coastal flooding in the FHRMs, ➢ Assess potential economic damage from floods, and include insurance costs as a topic, ➢ Make the FRMP's objectives more specific and link clearly to quantitative indicators and measures, ➢ Provide information on the methods used to prioritise measures, including CBA, as well as estimated cost, funding, and timetable for measures, ➢ Include an assessment of the progress of measures made to achieve the objectives in the FRMP,

Thank you

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