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NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	AOB item for the meeting of the “Agriculture and Fisheries” Council on 22 September 2025: EU Water Resilience Strategy - an agricultural perspective <i>- Information from Germany, supported by Austria, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy and Portugal</i>

The European Union Water Resilience Strategy has come at the right time. Water is the basis of all life and economic activity; and it is consequently a key cross-cutting issue, with repercussions for the supply of drinking water, food security, environmental protection, nature conservation, climate stewardship, industry, energy and social security. Germany welcomes the Water Resilience Strategy’s networked approach, which focuses on the better application of existing regulations rather than on the development of new regulations and thus complies with our common goal of reducing red tape.

A sufficient quantity of good-quality water is essential for the production and supply of food and feed and is closely linked to the right to food. Fisheries and aquaculture are also especially dependent on water. Agriculture, which constitutes the largest use of land, is an important factor for groundwater recharge and the overall water balance. As such, it is particularly hard hit by climate change and water stress and, as the largest water consumer in the EU (approximately 51%), also bears a particular responsibility for handling this valuable resource responsibly. Therefore, the agricultural sector, being a key stakeholder, needs to be involved in policymaking, discussions and implementing processes that are based on the EU Water Resilience Strategy. We need close cooperation, including with the Directorate-General AGRI and the EU MS. We also need to involve all affected non-government actors in order to achieve common, sustainable solutions. The EU COM's proposal to hold a Water Resilience Forum every two years is welcome.

We would like to share the following comments and requests regarding individual points and objectives of the strategy:

1. Objective: Water efficiency is to be enhanced by at least 10% by 2030.

We would like to request the EU COM to issue a written explanation as to how this overall objective is to be distributed between the individual sectors in a way that takes specific regional circumstances into account, and, regarding the agricultural sector, to please explain the basis for the total water use percentage of 51% stated in the strategy, the basis for the 10% water efficiency enhancement and how water use should be calculated in the future.

We would also like to request the EU COM to present a schedule for developing a better data situation and for the proposed methodology for the water efficiency goal.

2. CAP incentives

The strategy also envisages maintaining incentives for farmers to improve the water resources management on their holdings in the next CAP programme planning period. EU COM estimates the annual investment gap in the implementation of water rules at around 23 billion EUR. The European Investment Bank is to provide 15 billion EUR by 2027 for closing this gap.

We request that the EU COM explain what outcomes it expects for the CAP in the area of water resiliency with a view to the financing aspect.

The aim should be to maintain a scope for action by the EU Member States for their own focus areas. We reject any prior allocation of CAP funds to a particular use.