



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

Brussels, 01 July 2025

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INFORMATION

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on the Environment
Subject:	Water Resilience Strategy: Follow-up to the WPE on 12 June 2025 – presentations by the Commission

Delegations will find attached a revised version of the presentation from the Commission on the Proposal for a Directive on the BBNJ Agreement displayed at the WPE meeting on 28 May 2025. An error in the presentation on «EU Water Resilience Strategy» has been corrected. The other two presentations («Recommendation on Water Efficiency First» and «European Water Resilience Strategy – Global Action») have remained unchanged.

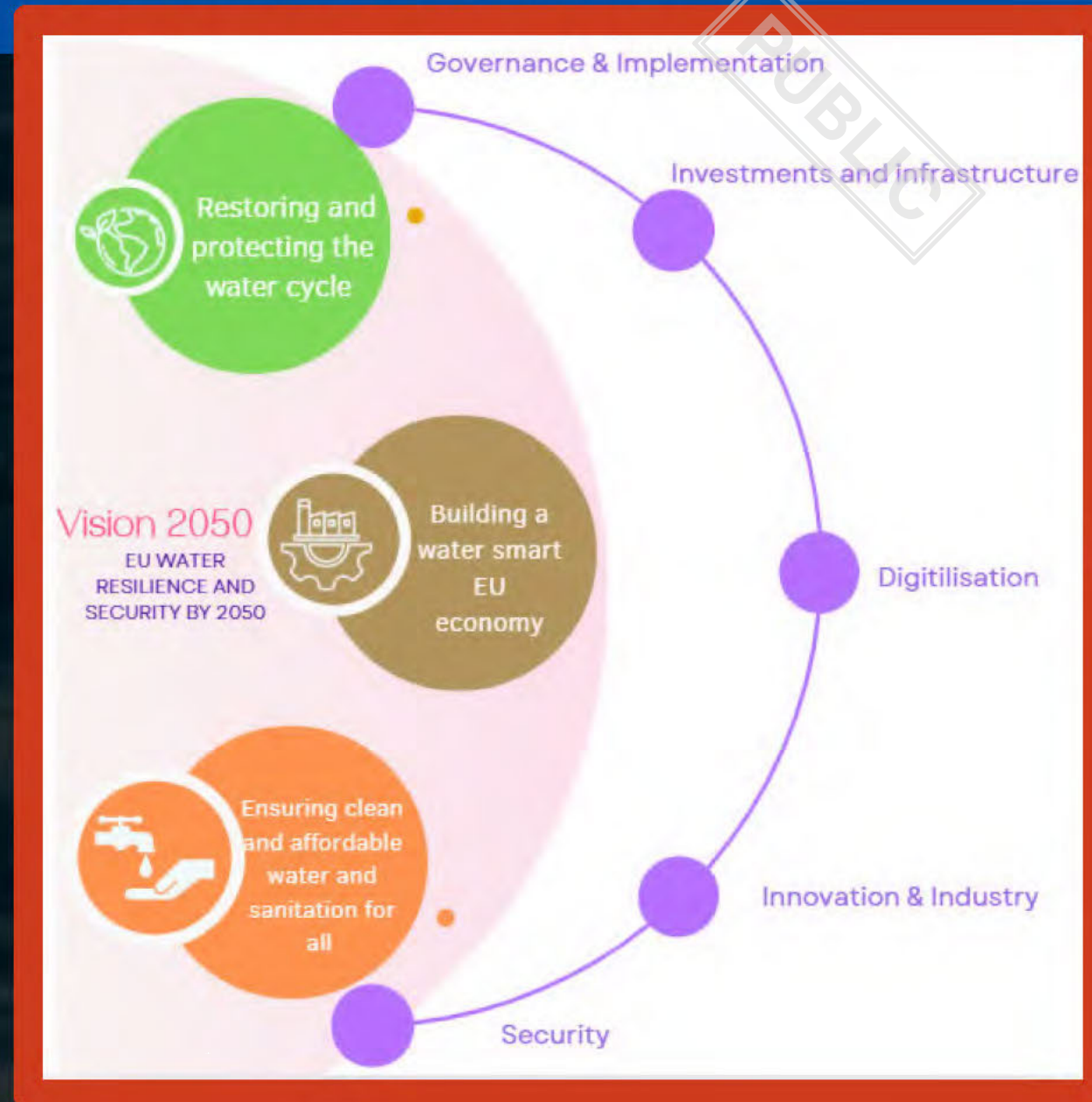
EU Water Resilience Strategy



– Head of Unit – Sustainable freshwater management –

DG ENVIRONMENT – EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Objectives and enablers



GLOBAL
ACTION

Restoring and protecting the water cycle- Key messages

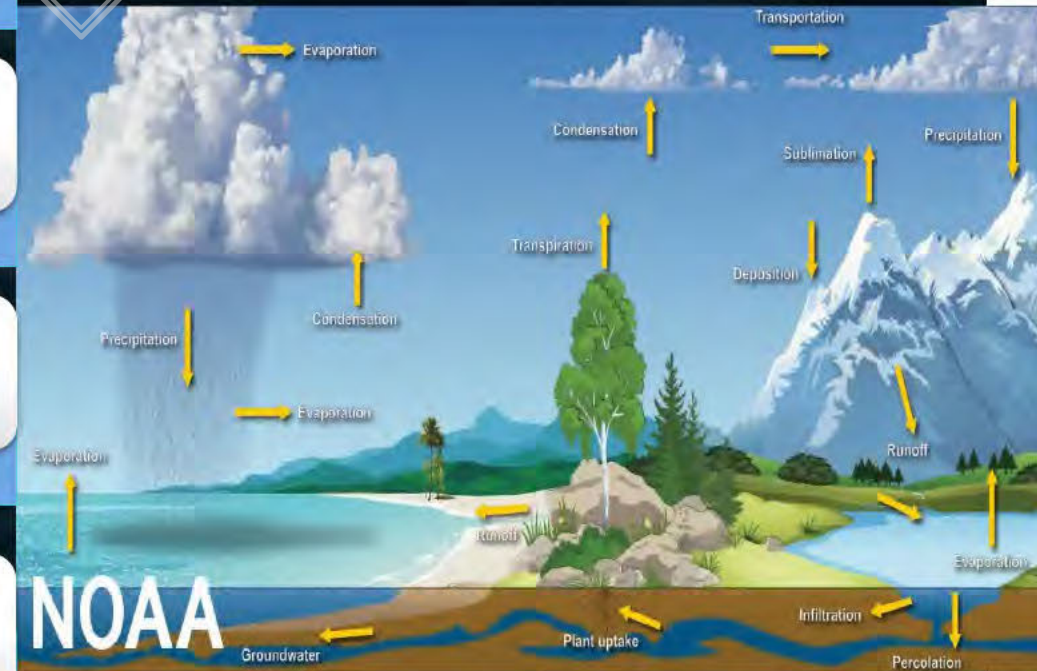
The EU has **very solid water legislation**

To protect water **we must act on land-** restore

We need to embrace a **Source to Sea approach**

We must curb **nutrient pollution**

We need to **clean up forever chemicals**



Restoring and protecting the water cycle



Green, Blue, Grey water in a context of adaptation



Water smart economy

Key messages

Water resilience is essential for **competitiveness**

Water is finite- it **must be used and reused efficiently**

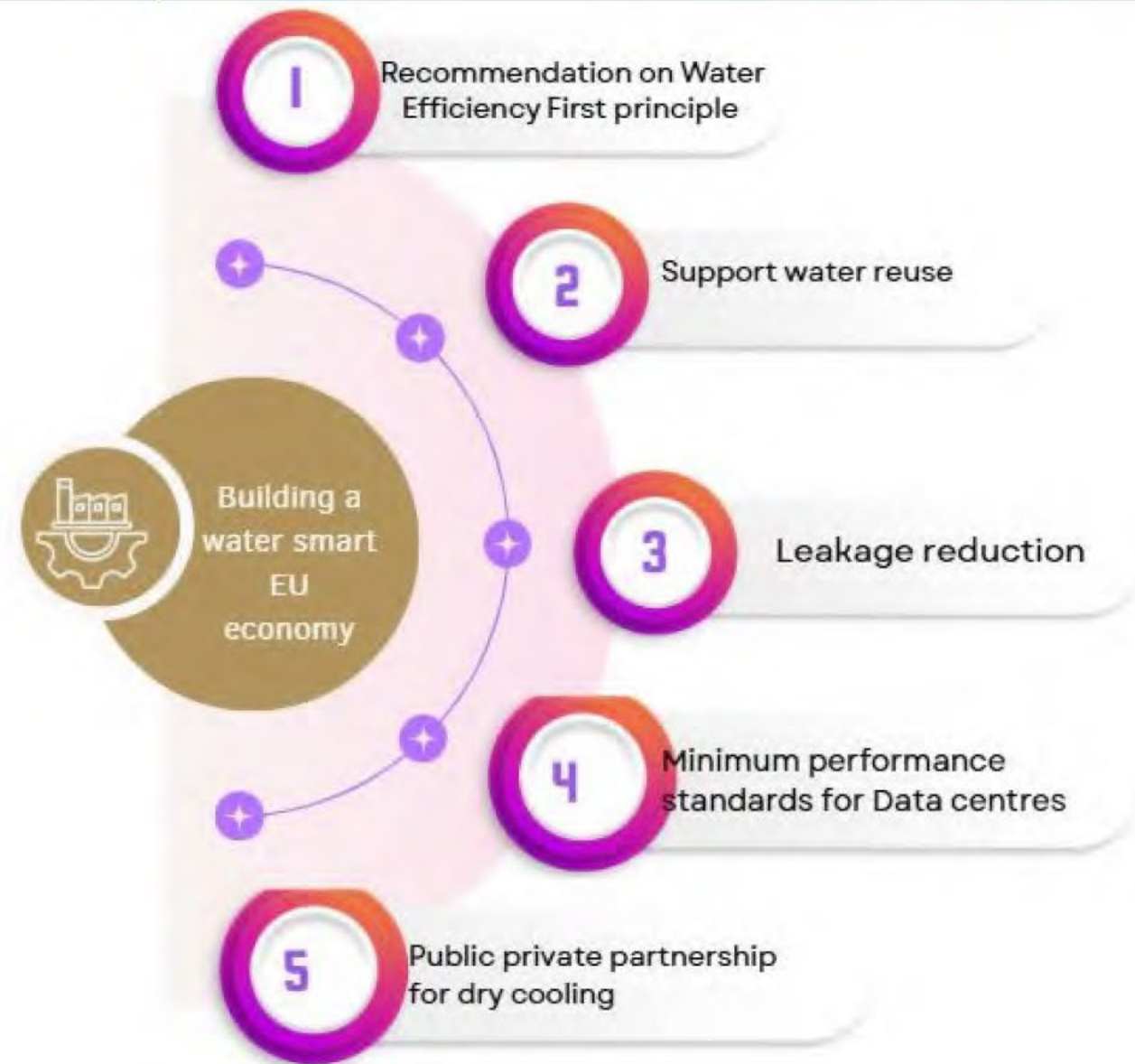
The green transition comes with **a water bill**

Energy and water efficiency come hand in hand

Sustainable agriculture and the food systems are key allies

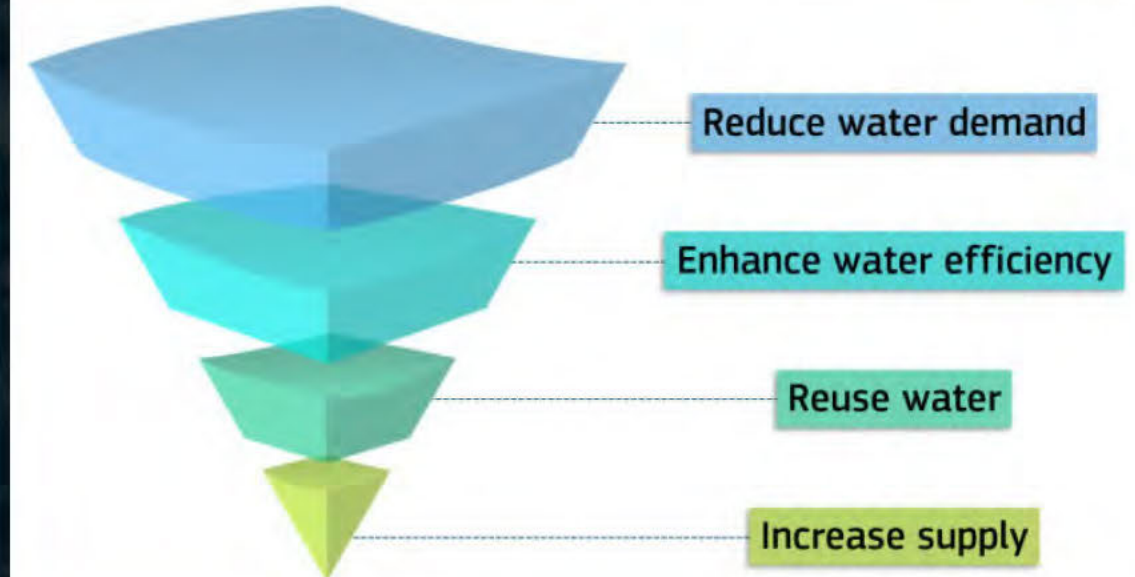
EU should aim
to enhance
water efficiency
by at least 10%
by 2030

Water smart economy



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Water Efficiency First - Hierarchy



Securing clean and affordable water for all

Key messages

Access to clean water and sanitation is **a human right**

Consumers play an essential role in water resilience

Housing and city planning are key components to guarantee this right

Pricing should create the right incentives

Enhanced awareness raising is tantamount

Clean water and sanitation for all



Better control of the resource





Implementation and governance

Key messages

There is a crucial need to enhance **enforcement of legislation**

Transboundary cooperation must be improved

Citizens and all relevant actors **must be involved**

All authorities must feel accountable to deliver water resilience

Water smart spatial planning must guide the green and digital transition



Implementation and governance

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Implementation and Governance

CONDUCT STRUCTURED DIALOGUES WITH MS



ENHANCE TRANSBOUNDARY COOPERATION



VISUALISATION TOOLS -WATER SMART SPATIAL PLANNING





Finance, Investments and infrastructure

Key messages

There is a **very significant funding gap** to implement water legislation

Yet Member States struggle to use the available funds- **assistance**

The **next EU budget is an opportunity** for water resilience

Private funding will need to be stepped up

The **EIB emerges as a essential ally** with its new Water Program



Finance, Investments and infrastructure

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Finance, investments and infrastructure

LAUNCH OF THE EIB WATER PROGRAMME AND
ADVISORY FACILITY



MIDTERM REVIEW OF COHESION POLICY -
WATER RESILIENCE A NEW PRIORITY



ESTABLISH A WATER RESILIENCE ACCELERATOR



EIB to support
with over
15 billion Euro in
2025-2027



Digitalisation

Key messages

Digitalisation of the management of water holds **an incredible potential**

Managing water from the space must become common practice

Real-time data collection will make us more resilient

Digitalisation will reduce **administrative burden**

Digitalisation offers significant **business opportunities**



Digitalisation

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Digitalisation

ACTION PLAN ON DIGITALISATION OF THE WATER SECTOR



EU WIDE INITIATIVE ON SMART WATER METERING



ONE STOP SHOP FOR COPERNICUS PRODUCTS ON WATER



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Internet of things- Sensors-smart metering In situ monitoring
(for quality and quantity aspects)



Digitilisation of **data management**
AI, **Modelling**, Destination Earth, Digital Twins

Remote sensing
Ex situ monitoring



Research, Innovation, Skills and industry

Key messages

Knowledge gaps - We know a lot about water but yet not enough

Innovation in water management must be scaled up- from patents to market

A **properly skilled work force** driving water management is essential

There is a need to **bring closer together** industry, education and research

There is a need for the right frame to **attract young people** to the water sector



Research, innovation, skills

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Research, innovation, skills

WATER RESILIENCE R&D STRATEGY



EUROPEAN WATER ACADEMY



KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION COMMUNITY
EUROPEAN INSTITUTE OF INNOVATION AND
TECHNOLOGY



Security and preparedness

Key messages



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Our **critical infrastructure is at risk**

Citizens must be empowered, prepared and protected

Many tools exist to protect the population but **they are not sufficiently used**

Knowing and addressing our weaknesses will make us stronger

Solidarity will be crucial but would need to embed **preparedness by design**



Security and preparedness

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Security and preparedness

PROTECTING CRITICAL WATER INFRASTRUCTURE



ENHANCE THE USE OF EARLY WARNING
SYSTEMS



EUROPEAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLAN AND THE
PREPAREDNESS UNION STRATEGY





Security and preparedness

Key messages

Progress on the **achievement of SDG 6** is clearly insufficient- 2,2 Billion people

Swift action is need at global level to **value water differently**

Water, peace and security are intimately linked

The EU will **strengthen country and regional partnerships** on water

The EU remains committed to **closing the financing gap** at international level



Global Action

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Global Action

PROMOTE WATER RESILIENCE THROUGH THE
GLOBAL GATEWAY



STRENGTHEN GLOBAL WATER GOVERNANCE



MAINSTREAM WATER IN INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES
INCLUDING RIO CONVENTIONS



Next steps

Water
Resilience
Forum
Dec 2025

Mid term
review of the
Strategy
2027

Evaluation of
progress
2029



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**See
Water
Differently**

#WaterWiseEU

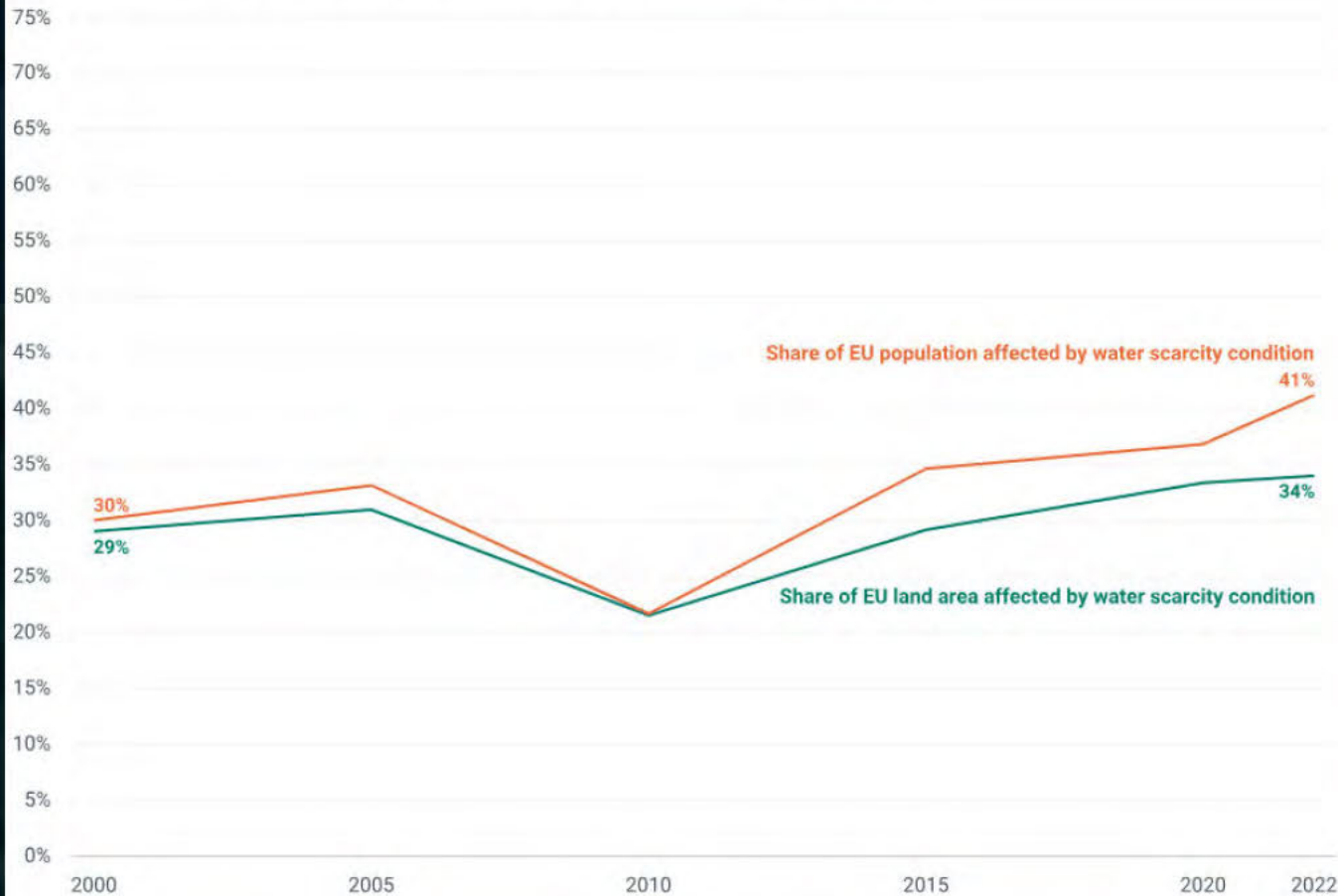
Recommendation on Water Efficiency First



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Why Water Efficiency ?

Figure 1. Area and population affected during at least one quarter of the year by water scarcity conditions in the EU, measured by the water exploitation index plus



Source: EEA Water Water scarcity conditions in Europe (2025)

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1) Since 2010, water abstractions have increased in every sector of EU economy except for electricity production

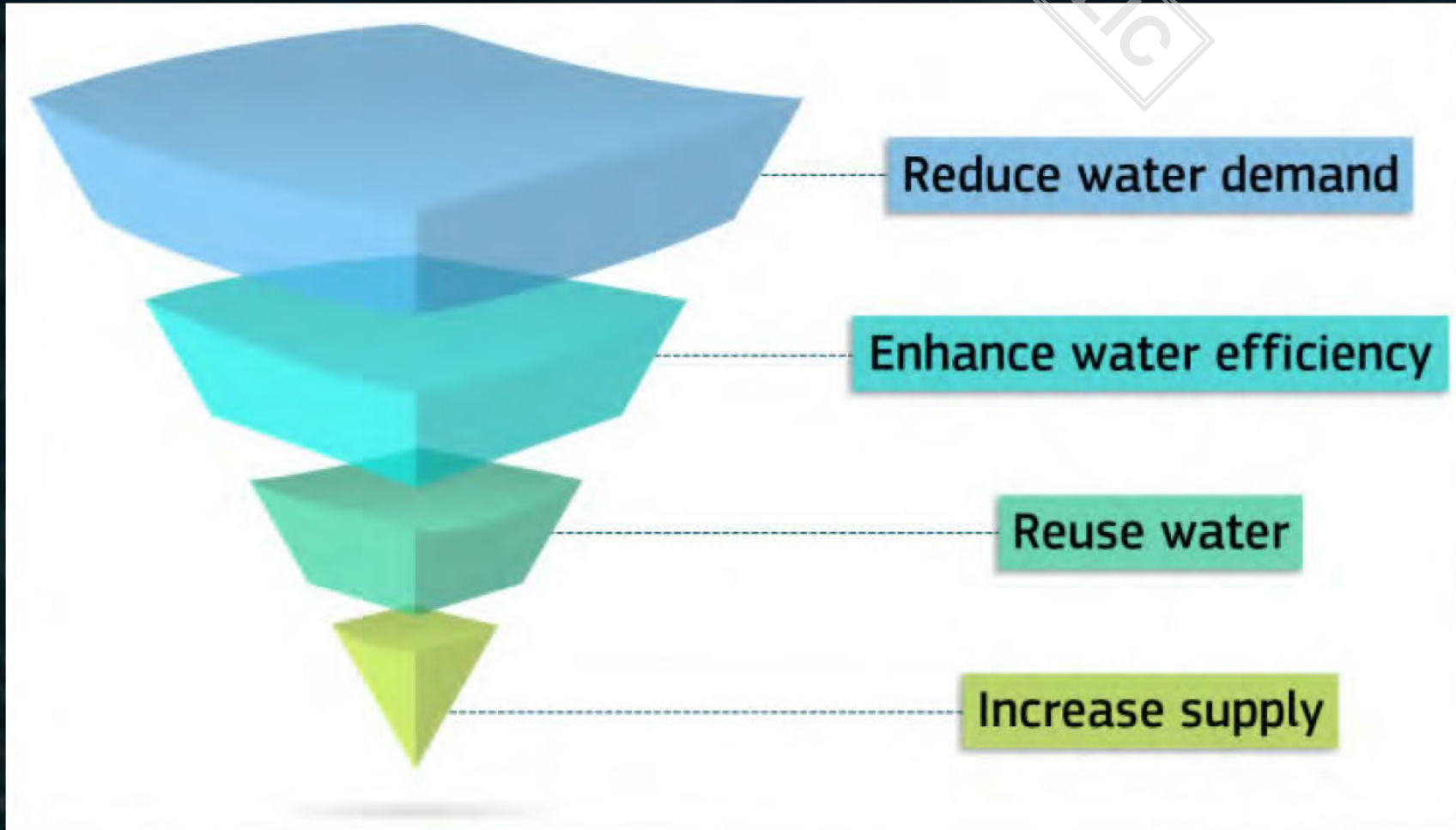
2) Seasonal Water scarcity is affecting more and more people in the EU

2020: 30% EU population affected

2022: 41% EU population affected

3) It will get worse: Europe is the fastest warming continent on earth.

Why Water Efficiency First ?



Promote efficiency at all levels

Conveyance
Efficiency

Storage
Efficiency

Use
Efficiency

Recommendations (1)

1 - Better Control the Resource

- **Continuously monitor water abstractions** (ensuring also individual & smart metering) + establish a **water balance** per river basin

- **Water permits** must be regularly aligned to stay climate change-proof. Foresee **sanctions** for unauthorised water abstractions.

- **Protect** ecological flows taking into account ecosystem needs & don't over abstract from groundwater bodies

- Water efficiency measures should ultimately lead to higher resilience through lower water consumption => **relevance of water-pricing policies**



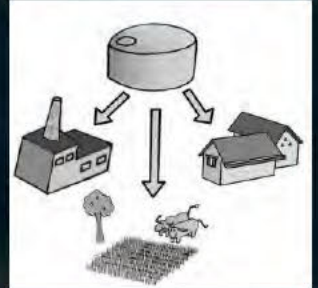
Recommendations (2)

2 - Governance

- Ensure overall an appropriate governance for water management

- **Mechanisms** for water **allocation** should be transparent, secure, inclusive, fair and predictable

- **Safeguard vulnerable and marginalised groups'** access to affordable drinking water and water for sanitation



Recommendations (3)

3 – Training, Skills, & Awareness Raising

- **Invest in skills and human resources** to ensure effective and efficient water management



- **Raise citizen's, local authorities' and businesses' awareness** to the importance of water efficiency



- Repeat awareness raising campaigns in regular intervals

See
Water
Differently

+10% water efficiency by 2030 in EU

Methodology
for setting
Targets (2026)

Commission develops
common
Benchmarks
(2027)

MS set water
efficiency
targets



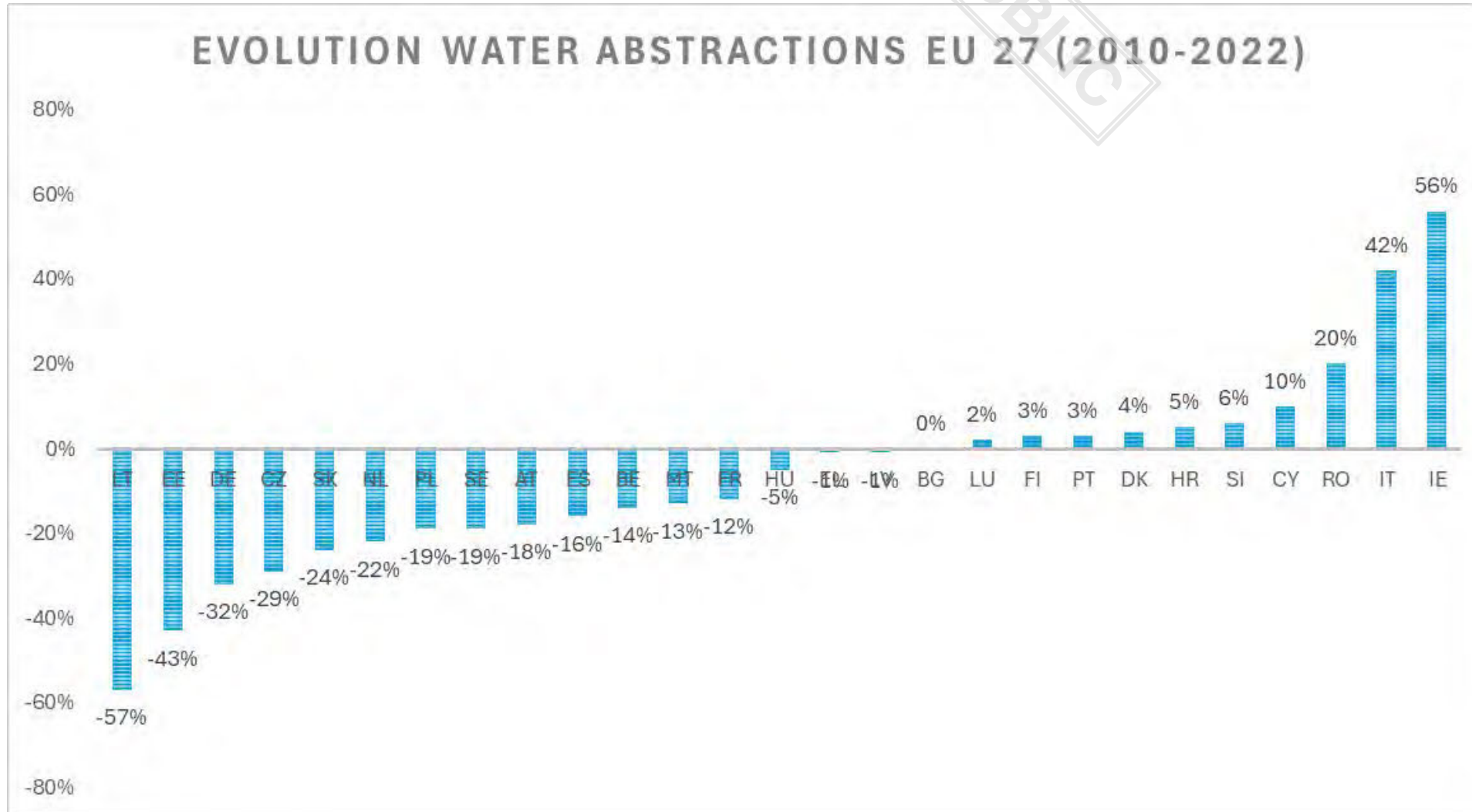
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**See
Water
Differently**

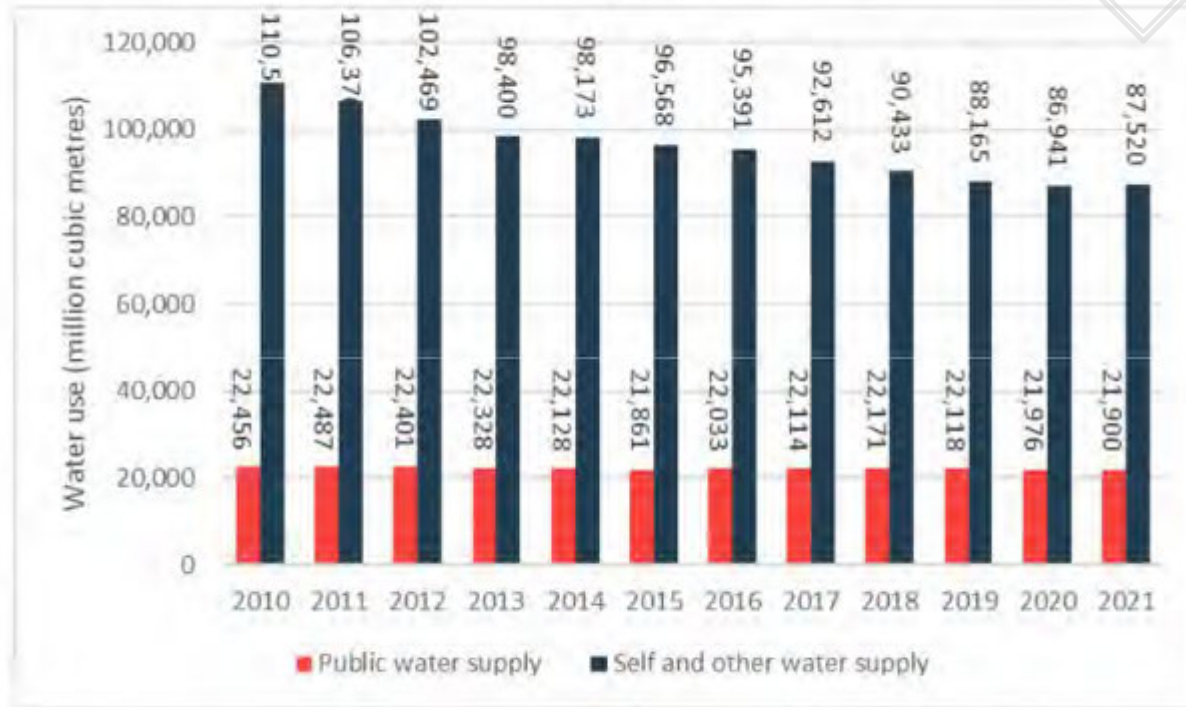
#WaterWiseEU

Water Abstractions EU 27 (2010-2022)



80% water is abstracted by operators other than public water supply

Figure 2-3 - Water use in the EU-27 by source - public supply and self and other supply, 2010 – 2021



[Water Europe 2025](#)
based on estimates and
Eurostat data

Source: Eurostat ([env_wat_cat](#) (2023))⁴⁶



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European Water Resilience Strategy – Global Action

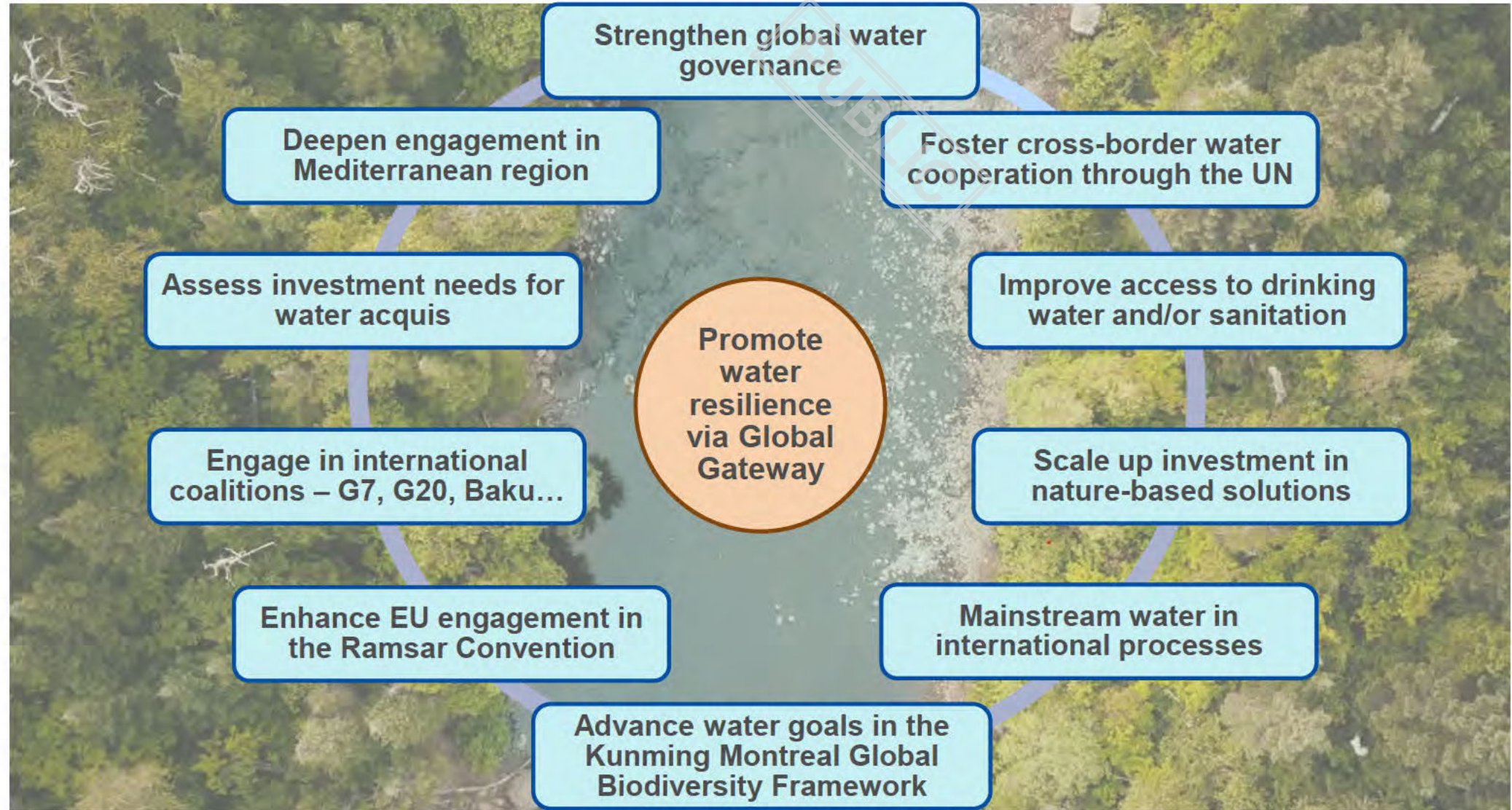




Towards global water resilience – Challenges

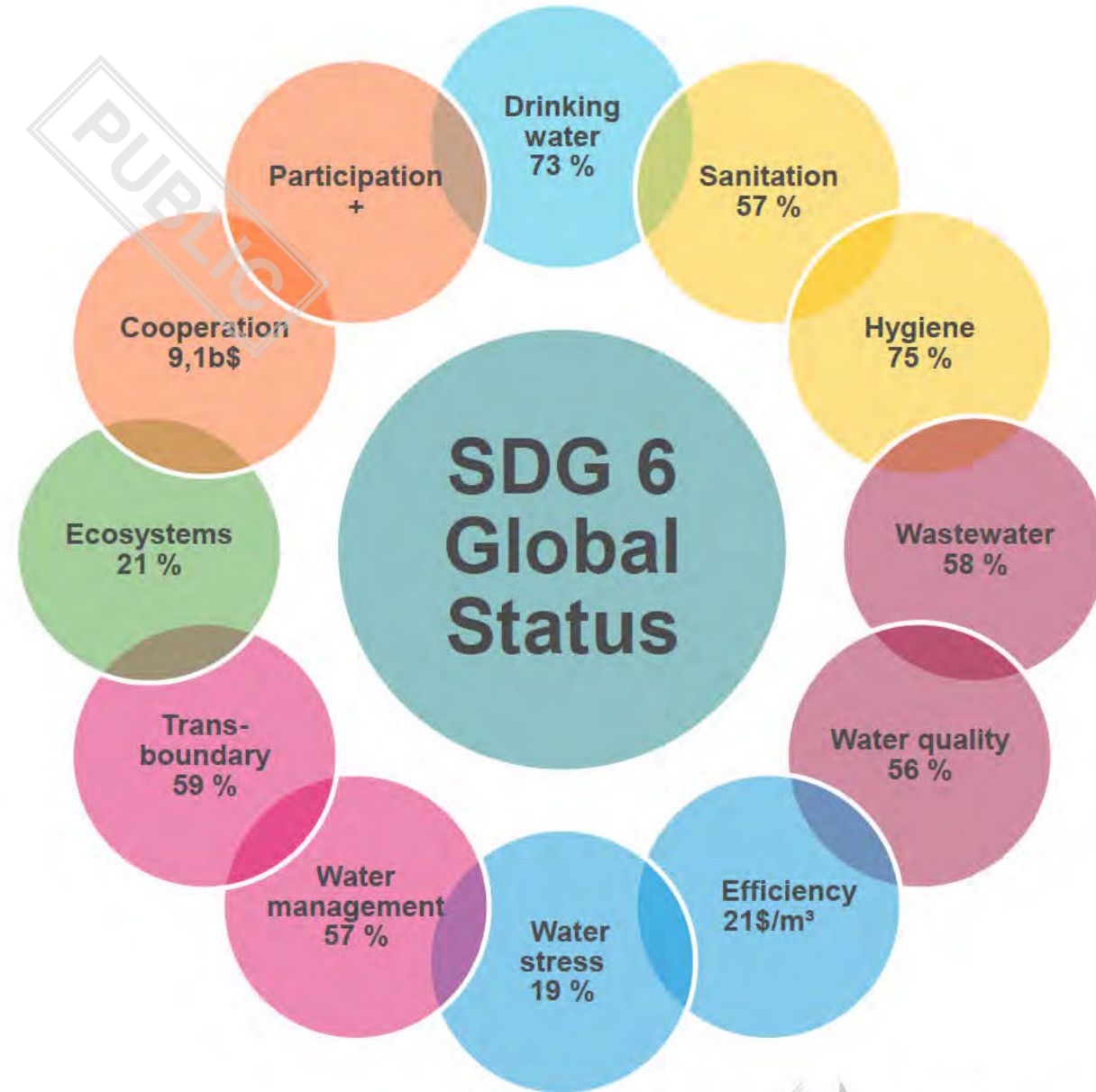
- We can no longer take water for granted
- 2.2 billion people (3/10 people) still **lack access to safe drinking water**
- More than half of the global population (4.2 billion people) does not have access to **safe sanitation**
- Global **water demand** will surpass what is available by 40% in 2030
- **Wetlands are disappearing** three times faster than forests
- Worldwide, water-related **disasters** displaced 40 million people and inflicted more than EUR 480 billion in damages in 2024
- **Transboundary** competition and conflicts over water are growing
- **Global financing gap** – EUR 6 trillion

European Water Resilience Strategy – Global Action



UN water action

- **Agenda 2030 and SDG6 targets** for drinking water, safe sanitation, water quality, water scarcity, improved management and ecosystem restoration
- **UN 2023 Water Conference**
- **Water Action Agenda**, with over 800 voluntary commitments, including 33 **EU commitments**
- **UN System-wide Strategy** for Water and Sanitation & its Implementation Plan, coordinating 36 UN entities
- Ms Retno L.P. Marsudi is the first UN **Special Envoy on Water**





EU position on UN water action - Outlook

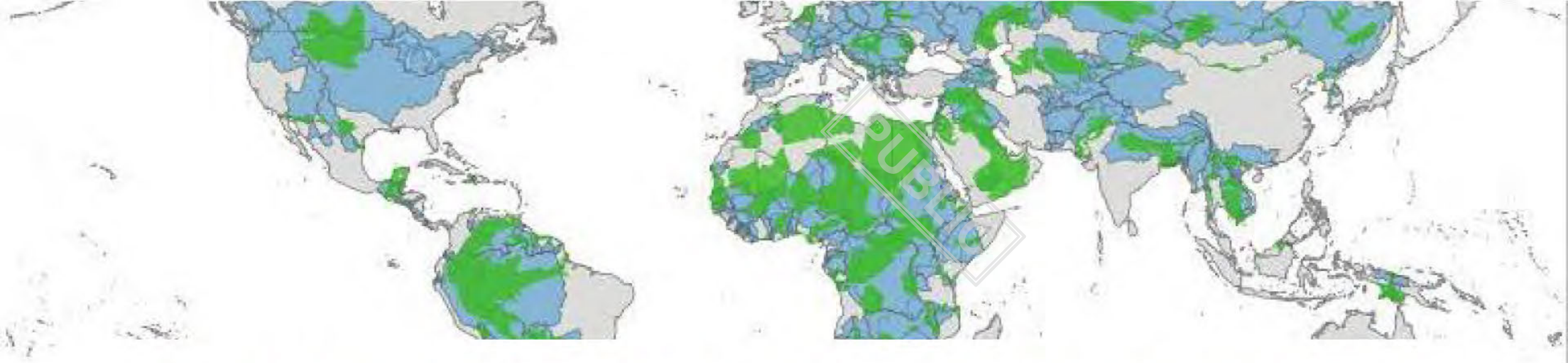
*Build on the achievements of the 2023 Conference, contribute to pursuing the establishment of a **regular intergovernmental process** on water within the UN, and provide **political guidance** on the global water agenda. We need cross-sectoral and cross-level **cooperation** to turn the commitments of the Water Action Agenda into **collective action**.*

UN Water
Conference
2026

UN Water
Conference
2028



European
Commission



Stepping up transboundary water cooperation

- **EU Water Diplomacy as a tool for peace, security and stability – supporting accession to the UN Water Convention**
- To help parties to sustainably manage shared water resources and **develop solutions acceptable to all**
- **Challenges:** Lack of relevant data, resource constraints, difficulties in the exchange of information, and differences between national administrative and legal frameworks



Actions to mainstream water

- **Water action** supports policies on security, competitiveness, climate action, biodiversity, combating desertification and cities
- **Water-climate nexus**, addressing water in NAPs and NDCs, Baku Dialogue, Global Goal on Adaptation
- Significantly scale up investment in **nature-based solutions** in infrastructures or in conjunction with infrastructures.
- Enhance implementation of water-related goals and targets of the **Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**
- Enhance EU engagement in the **Ramsar Convention**
- **UNCCD** advocates for 'drought smart', proactive, coordinated, and holistic drought risk management.



Working with global coalitions

Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition to inspire and foster equitable and sustainable cooperation on transboundary waters and provide support

G7 Water Coalition to align ambitions, maximize cooperation, generate political momentum for water initiatives worldwide and mainstream water across relevant policy sectors

Baku Dialogue on Water for Climate Action to take integrated approaches when combating the causes and impacts of climate change on water basins and water-related ecosystems

G20 Water Dialogue to share best practices and strategies for sustainable water management

Freshwater Challenge a voluntary, country-led partnership with the goal to restore 300,000 kilometers of degraded rivers and 350 million hectares of degraded wetlands by 2030



Working with country and regional partners

- Successful **partnerships** with China, India, Egypt and Team Europe Initiatives on Transboundary Water Management in Africa and Water-Energy-Climate Change in Central Asia
- The EU will strengthen **country and regional partnerships on water**. Assess the investment needs for each candidate country to comply with the water acquis. Step up engagement in the Union for Mediterranean and the Blue Mediterranean Partnership
- Partnerships build on **technical assistance** and **knowledge transfer**, twinnings and **peer learning**, the scaling up of investments, **policy dialogues** and **research and innovation**
- The EU will help close the considerable gap in **international water financing**



Close the financing gap

EU remains committed to help closing the considerable gap in international water financing

Through **Global Gateway**, the EU and its Member States remain the **biggest contributor** to official development aid, including on water infrastructure and Nature-based Solutions

EIB and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, together with other multilateral development banks, have **committed to greater levels of financing for water security**

EU will continue supporting investments mainly **through blending mechanisms and guarantees** and improving the **investment climate**



More information

- [European Water Resilience Strategy](#)
- [EU Council conclusions on Water in the EU's external actions](#) (2021)
- [EU Council conclusions on Water Diplomacy](#) (2018)
- [EU Human Rights Guidelines on Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation](#) (2019)
- [EU efforts on the global water agenda](#)
- [#WaterWiseEU campaign materials](#)

- [UN 2023 Water Conference](#)
- [UN 2026 Water Conference](#)



Thank you

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Slide 2: Boys washing face, source: [Pexels](#); Slide 3: EU Water Resilience Graf, source: [EC](#); Slide 5: Drought, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 5: People walking through a flooded area, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 5: Water drops on hand, source: [Pixabay](#); Slide 6: Flowing River background, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 7: Global status of the Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation (SDG 6) – own illustration, source: [UN](#); Slide 8: Waterdrop, source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 9: Global River Basins, source: [UN-Water](#); Slide 10: Bubbles in water, source: [Pixabay](#); Slide 11: Flowing river, source: [Pexels](#); Slide 12: A hand holding a small globe., source: [Unsplash](#); Slide 13: Pile of 20 and 10 cent coins, source: [Pexels](#); Slide 14: River from above, source: [Unsplash](#)