



Irrigants d'Europe position on the

**DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION  
(2020/2613(RSP))**

**and successive amendments, further to Questions for Oral  
Answer B9-0000/2020 and B9-0000/2020.**

Submitted on behalf of the **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety** by Christophe Hansen, Sara Cerdas, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Marco Dreosto, Martin Häusling, Joanna Kopcińska, Malin Björk, Eleonora Evi.

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## ***Introductory statement***

Although in EU drought impacts on agriculture are of greater concern than those on public water supply, still statements that conceal and reinforce a diffuse preconception against agricultural water uses are pervading the political narrative and can be found in official document and on the press.

Citizens' interest is more easily caught by floods or biodiversity losses than droughts, as they are highly visible. The increasing rainfall intensity causes runoff and swells rivers causing banks to overflow with immediate and devastating impacts on urban and rural settlements, the economy, and the environment. Droughts' impacts are much less visible, however they can devastate economies, society, and the environment and their impact can last long after rainfall returns to normal.

Not only farmers are now in the frontline, the whole society is facing serious risks coming from the combination of Climate Change, Drought and COVID-19. Their combined impact began to expose the fragile nature of our food production and supply chains, and not just in getting labour to harvest crops. To face food supply chains deficiency, which shall be highly disruptive for the EU society as they were in south Mediterranean countries during the Arab Spring, we must secure enough of capacity in home production improving “just-in-time” or “short range” supply chains, thus sustaining local EU productions and the internal food market.

There is a clear conflict in the political narrative between the need to increase water buffering and storage, protecting from floods *all the economic activities and industries, besides urban areas and territories, while storing water for all the uses for the forthcoming drought periods*, and the protection of our water from pollution.

*Although the EU Parliament calls for more to be done to integrate adaptation in infrastructure and calls for effective climate proofing of public infrastructure and other investments, whatever action undertaken to secure water supply face to an increased alternance of heavy rainfalls and drought periods is communicated to citizens as a threaten to WFD objectives and riverine biodiversity resulting from farmers' insatiable thirst for natural resources.*

On the other hand, scholars are confirming the worrying situation farmers are experiencing every summer. The area of cropland affected by extreme drought across central Europe could double in less than 30 years, to more than 40 million hectares<sup>1</sup>. Climate change led to an increase in the crop water demand and thus the crop water deficit from 1995 to 2015<sup>2</sup>, which effects have been till now mitigated by the increased water productivity resulting from farmers' investments in irrigation modernisation and improved water governance. Nevertheless, areas that are now irrigated could require more irrigation, and those that are now rainfed might need to be irrigated<sup>3</sup>.

*The very last option to start planning strategically for water for food it is now*, otherwise we may well have to face that ‘perfect storm’ that has wiped out social stability in Northern Africa and Middle

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<sup>1</sup> Vittal Hari, Oldrich Rakovec, Yannis Markonis, Martin Hanel and Rohini Kumar. Increased future occurrences of the exceptional 2018–2019 central European drought under global warming. Nature Scientific Report (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-68872-9>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/indicators/water-requirement-2/assessment>

<sup>3</sup> Samuel Levis, et al. CLM crop yields and water requirements: Avoided impacts by choosing RCP 4.5 over 8.5. *Climatic Change*, February 2018, Volume 146, Number 3–4.

East. We must secure food for the EU population on the verge of a severe economic crises that will affect mainly the weakest members of our society. The heartfelt plea for not to leave nothing to chance avoiding disparity increasing among societal groups must not remain unheard.

*A question raises: in this complex scenario must EU food production rely mainly on uncertain rainfall patterns?*

Irrigation is now an integral part of food production chain not only in the MED regions, nowadays irrigation is a practice sustaining the rural economy and food supply chains in NEE and CE but particularly in SEE region or Lower Danube countries where food production is still a large part of the national economy and people's livelihoods. Moreover, water infrastructure assets are a particular type of physical asset that could be destroyed or disrupted in their functioning, not only by the occurrence of disasters but also by abandon or even reduced maintenance, leading to a decline in the services they provide or a rise in the cost of these services. This in turn can have knock-on effects on other sectors that rely on these infrastructure assets, i.e., drainage of meteoric, treated and partially treated water from urban areas.

Irrigated agriculture considers since long time sustainable water use as a priority, as demonstrated by the efforts done in keeping going the sector modernisation process in all its aspects, from technology to governance. Our sector is at the frontline of science and technology, struggling to make the best use of every drop, while coping with the transition to digital agriculture amidst a difficult generational change.

However, the current approach to water/food/energy/environment nexus in the European Green New Deal and in the Farm to Fork does not make easier the situation the agricultural sector is going through, economically suffocated by the differences that exist between the costs that farmers bear - updated to 2020 - and the prices at which they sell their products - anchored in the 80's-.

*It must also be highlight that in many countries cost recovery principle for water services is almost full implemented. Irrigated agriculture incorporates cost-recovery, especially where collective management is in place, while nor positive externalities, which value is difficult to monetize, neither the cost of collective management of agricultural waterworks by farmers are considered.*

Having this in mind, Irrigants d'Europe wants to contribute proactively to the ongoing discussion. Our call has always be to be involved, to be part of the solution and not to be restricted to the role of "polluters".

The present document provides the position of Irrigants d'Europe about the **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety's Draft Motion for a resolution** and to the proposed amendments.

Document:

2020/2613(RSP) 9.6.2020 “DRAFT MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION”

<b>(2020/2613(RSP)) Recital</b>	<b><u>Amendments</u></b>	<b><u>Irrigants d'Europe position</u></b>
E. whereas water abstraction puts an important pressure on EU waters; whereas about a quarter of water diverted from the natural environment in the EU is used for agriculture; whereas an agreement on the new Regulation on water reuse was reached, which will facilitate the use of treated urban waste water for agricultural irrigation;	-	The recital is pointing out the amount of water diverted for agricultural uses (25%) but fails to mention that reversely 75% of water is diverted for uses others than agriculture. This statement conceals and reinforce a diffuse preconception against agricultural uses pervading the political narrative since too long.
F. whereas the main point source of water pollution in the EU is the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated urban and/or industrial wastewater; whereas the main diffuse source of water pollution is agriculture, with releases of nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants;	-	Starting from the previous recital E, readers are led to think that the major issue relate to releases of “nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants” by agriculture. On the contrary, the large prevalence of uses other than agriculture and the wide range of pollutants released by untreated or inadequately treated urban and/or industrial wastewater make point source pollution highly harmful for human health and for the environment. Furthermore, nitrates and phosphate from point source pollution are discharged into surface water flowing through agricultural areas and possibly inputted to diffuse agricultural pollution.
G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical pollution in surface and groundwater wherever possible at source as the most cost-effective measure;	-	We agree with the need to tackle pollution in surface and groundwater wherever possible at source. This must be taken from a broader perspective including pharmaceutical residuals and microplastic, and not be referred only to chemicals.
K. whereas water is an essential element in the food cycle;	-	Sustainability of food production and of agriculture

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<p>whereas good quality of ground and surface waters is necessary to achieve a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system as described in the Farm to Fork Strategy;</p>		<p>are goals shared by the irrigated agriculture as well. However, sustainability goals will not be attained only by an increased use on reclaimed water. A more realistic approach is needed to govern the transition to Agriculture 4.0.</p>
<p>L. whereas there are currently over 21.000 hydropower plants in Europe; whereas no comprehensive EU action has taken place for dam removal;</p>	-	<p>Existing water storage infrastructures need to be refurbished for multiple uses, helping to fulfil the increasing water demand face to an increasingly uneven distribution of rain over seasons and a reduced buffer capacity of snowpack and glaciers. Dam removal will reduce water storage capacity and flash flood protection, while an infrastructure modernisation could allow sediments to flow and removing barriers for fishes. EU parliament call to integrate adaptation in infrastructure and calls for effective climate proofing of public infrastructure and other investments.</p>
<p>M. whereas the UWWTD was effective in reducing pollution to water bodies by reducing the loads of biochemical oxygen demand, nitrogen and phosphorus in treated waste water across the EU;</p>	-	<p>UWWTP efficiency in reducing nutrients pollution need to be further pursued. The actual overall situation still is far from the optimum, mainly for medium/small UWWTP. Too frequent use of by-pass, inefficient spillways, not efficient secondary stage (bulking, etc) and lacking tertiary treatments are still causing significant water contamination.</p>
<p>3. Regrets that the objectives of the WFD still are not reached mainly due to inadequate funding, particularly slow implementation, insufficient enforcement and broad use of the exemptions of the Directive, that integration of</p>	-	<p>Lamentably the WFD objective aren't reached yet. We agree on the insufficient funding. On the other hand, despite the questionable results of the WFD Fitness Check, it must be admitted that excessive derogation from number of MS</p>

<p>environmental objectives in sectoral policies have been insufficient, and that half of the EU's water bodies are still not in a good status;</p>		<p>is a clear sign that ambitions were set too high with respect to the reality territories must face. Moreover, the “one-out all-out” principle is masking the great progresses made, avoiding recognising progresses and penalising further efforts.</p>
<p>4. Notes that climate change can have a significant negative impact on freshwater sources with droughts leading to depleted river flows and higher concentrations of pollutants, and intense rainfall leading to increased urban and agricultural run-off; emphasises that increasing temperatures lead to increased water stress, impacting several economic sectors; underlines that resilience of water ecosystems, flooding and water scarcity should be duly taken into account in the upcoming EU climate adaptation strategy;</p>	-	<p>We would underline that climate change is having significant negative impact on irrigated agriculture and, overall, on crop water demand and on water availability since years. Starting from this consideration, the upcoming EU climate adaptation strategy cannot be limited to water reuse on the supply side and on limitation to agricultural uses on the demand side.</p>
<p>6. Notes that the “one-out-all-out”-principle should remain intact, yet poses a problem in the communication on progress made with regards to single parameters; calls for complementary reporting methodologies (such as distance to target);; highlights the importance of transparency and provision of comprehensive information to the public on the quality of water in the EU;</p>	-	<p>We strongly disagree, the benefits of the “one-out-all-out”-principle are by far less than the problems posed. Complementary reporting methodology are not involving any rewarding for efforts done and for improved performances. The Commission believes that a <i>gradual approach</i> to moving to Maximum Sustainable Yield conditions should in fact be a general rule. This seems not apply to results yielded applying WFD.</p>
<p>7. Deplores the use of exemptions for over half of Europe's water bodies, with limited justification; calls for an update of guidance documents for the use of exemptions in order to reduce this practice;</p>	-	<p>We agree that exemptions must be duly justified, but the statement imply that for over half of Europe's water bodies exemptions are the consequence of lack of political willingness or impossibility to apply WFD dictates. Both cases relate to</p>

		WFD ambitions and their applicability at river basin scale. It is unacceptable that an update guidance document would be prepared to overtly limit a legal practice. Any guidance update must be intended to better understand the reasons behind exemptions, aiming to improve WFD effectiveness.
8. Regrets that the cost-recovery principle, that foresees that all water users have an effective and proportionate financial participation, remains low to non-existent in several Member States; calls on Member States to consider and implement adequate water pricing policies and fully apply the cost recovery principle in line with the WFD; emphasises however that all citizens should have affordable access to water;	-	It's worthwhile to pinpoint that cost-recovery assessment often is not considering nor positive externalities, which value is difficult to monetize, neither the cost of collective management of agricultural waterworks by farmers. The same agricultural waterworks used also to dispose treated, inadequately treated and raw water from urban agglomeration and sparse residential/industrial areas. Moreover, lacking regular rainfall, a quota of the water nominally diverted for agriculture is now used to secure appropriate dilution and transport of wastewater effluents (treated or untreated), thus for sanitation and not for food production.
9. Highlights the importance of further addressing eutrophication of both fresh and salt waters caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from wastewater and other sources, including from agriculture;	-	We agree about a better use of fertilisers, knowing that performances can be improved through appropriate fertigation practices where irrigation is allowed. Fertigation techniques, when coupled with correct irrigation management, allows to reach zero nutrient release target.
13. Notes that the UWWTD does not sufficiently reflect the problems of storm water overflows and urban runoff, individual systems and small agglomerations;	-	We call for actions in that sense.
14. Calls on Member States to achieve full compliance with	-	Although agreeing on the need to step forward sustainable

the WFD as soon as possible, and in any case no later than 2027;		water uses as fast as possible, we call to avoid setting unrealistic targets. This does not mean slowing down efforts or avoiding undertaking effective actions in favour of water quality.
15. Calls on the Commission to support Member States in the implementation of the water Directives with technical assistance and appropriate training, by sharing good practices and expertise;	-	We agree, definitively sharing good practices and expertise has proven to be effective finding tailored solutions, mainly when all the relevant stakeholders engage in knowledge sharing and solution finding.
17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy;	-	Further alignment of CAP to WFD must not harm socio-economic resilience of rural communities. Overuse of nutrients and water often relate to the need to deliver products with quality standards defined unilaterally by the buyers. The normal yield quota satisfying such requirements, thus securing necessary and sufficient income, can be less than 40% of the total production, and abiotic/biotic stresses are fast reducing such percentage. Fertilisers and pesticides are often the only means available to farmers to counteract adverse cropping conditions. Avoiding is not a viable solution as far there are no alternatives. Better and wise use is on the contrary a commitment for the sector.
18. Urges the Commission to streamline and improve monitoring systems for water quality, collecting, among others, data on pesticide residue and metabolites in the water bodies in Europe;	-	We agree, a strong knowledge basis is helpful tailoring actions over sub-basins, avoiding spreading limitations on areas where their impacts are limited or negligible. This should allow decisive actions targeting specific pollution sources as well as the development of new techniques.
19. Calls on the Commission and the Member States to	-	We call for a strongly participative approach

develop drought management strategies as part of the River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans;		developing drought management strategies as part of the River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans. Too often irrigated agriculture had no voice, or their reasons were neglected. Agricultural water managers or/and farmers associations must be involved since the very early stages.
20. Suggests to address droughts with projects for the reuse of disused quarries, transformed into basins to contain rainwater and flood waves; encourages research and investments in this direction;	-	We agree, as part of a broad plan for water storage infrastructures.
21. Calls on the Member States to identify and secure the necessary funds and to step up efforts to maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructures that do not raise environmental or public health concerns; stresses the need to provide financial support for innovative methods and nature-based solutions;	-	We welcome any effort to maintain and reinvest in existing infrastructures and to implement innovative methods and nature-based solutions.
22. Encourages a better integration of the Flood Risk Management directive in policies on prioritising nature-based solutions, and adjusting funding streams accordingly;	-	We welcome any effort to integrate the Flood Risk Management directive in policies on prioritising nature-based solutions. Appropriate funding schemas are most needed.
23. Calls for increased action at Union and Member State level to tackle pollutants of emerging concern, such as microplastics and pharmaceuticals;	-	Whatever action must be taken at source level, as far no cost-effective removal is possible. The current ubiquitous pollution by microplastics, pharmaceuticals and other emergent contaminants cannot be tackled at farm level, while it could be used as trade barrier for irrigated production.

Document:

PE655.641v01-00 - AM\1210222EN.docx 14.7.2020 “AMENDMENTS 1 – 359“

(2020/2613(RSP)) Recital	ENVI 655.641v01-00 Amendment proposed	Irrigants d'Europe position
C. whereas good chemical status has been achieved for only 38% of surface waters and just 40% is in good ecological status or potential;	<b>Amendment 37</b> <b>Joanna Kopcińska</b> C. whereas good chemical status has been achieved for only 38% of surface waters and just 40% is in good ecological status or potential; <i>whereas, however, according to the exclusionary parameter principle, water status is considered good only if all elements of the assessment are considered good, which does not allow for a genuine assessment of a partial improvement in water quality;</i>	We agree. To be supported.
C. whereas good chemical status has been achieved for only 38% of surface waters and just 40% is in good ecological status or potential;	<b>Amendment 38</b> <b>Sara Cerdas, Maria Arena, Biljana Borzan, César Luena, Rovana Plumb, Tiemo Wölken, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Manuel Pizarro</b> C. whereas good chemical status has been achieved for only 38% of surface waters and just 40% is in good ecological status or potential, <i>and 16% are still unknown because of lack of data; whereas 81% of surface waters would achieve good chemical status if they were not polluted by ubiquitous, persistent bioaccumulative and toxic substances (uPBTs), such as mercury;</i>	We agree. To be supported.

<p>C. whereas good chemical status has been achieved for only 38% of surface waters and just 40% is in good ecological status or potential;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 40</b>  <b>Ulrike Müller, Jan Huitema, Andreas Glück</b>  C. whereas good chemical status has been achieved for only 38% of surface waters and just 40% is in good ecological status or potential;  C. whereas good chemical status has been achieved for only 38% of surface waters and just 40% is in good ecological status or potential;  <i>whereas due to the “one out all out” principle, these figures are not representative of the progress made on chemical or ecological status;</i></p>	<p>We agree. To be supported (see amendment 37).</p>
<p><b>Recital C a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 42</b>  <b>Martin Hojsík, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Catherine Chabaud</b>  <i>Ca. whereas good status depends not only on mitigation measures to address current pressures, but also on restoration measures to address pressures from the past and on timely measures against emerging threats;</i></p>	<p>In principle we agree, as far restoration measure will not imply significant socio-economic impacts on territories, and timely measures against emerging threats are previously agreed among stakeholders.</p>
<p>D. whereas the effectiveness of the WFD depends upon its implementation by the Member States;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 45</b>  <b>Joanna Kopcińska</b>  D. whereas the effectiveness of the WFD depends upon its implementation by the Member States <i>and on ensuring adequate funding, including through EU financial instruments;</i></p>	<p>Adequate funding of WFD measures has been and still it is a sensitive topic. Such an ambitious programme wasn't baked by adequate financial support since its very early stages. Integration of WFD into CAP has provided the necessary financial support to environmental policy, but such support cannot be further increased without any harm to the agricultural sector.</p>
<p>D. whereas the effectiveness of the WFD depends upon its implementation by the Member States;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 46</b>  <b>Ulrike Müller, Nicolae Ștefănuță, Martin Hojsík</b>  D. whereas the effectiveness of the WFD depends upon its implementation by the</p>	<p>We agree. To be supported.</p>

	Member States; <i>whereas stakeholder involvement is key for an effective implementation;</i>	
<b>Recital D a (new)</b>	<b>Amendment 52</b> <b>Joanna Kopcińska</b> <i>Da. whereas the Commission received 387 057 responses in the public consultation on the Water Framework Directive, of which 383 987 were sent as part of a single, structured action carried out by an environmental organisation;</i>	This must be specified every time the results of the fitness check are mentioned. Supporters of a single organisation gave 99% of the answers finally addressing the EU Commission decisions. Moreover, online survey isn't the best way to involve farmers for the well-known issues so frequently pointed out by scholars studying the evolution of the rural society. Ageing, limited IT skills, lack of habit, language (glossary) barriers, are dramatically limiting the capability of rural society to express its opinion through the survey launched by the EU Commission.
F. whereas the main point source of water pollution in the EU is the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated urban and/or industrial waste water; whereas the main diffuse source of water pollution is agriculture, with releases of nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants;	<b>Amendment 59</b> <b>Ulrike Müller</b> F. whereas the main point source of water pollution in the EU is the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated urban and/or industrial wastewater <i>due to incompliance with the UWWD with releases of for instance chemical substances, pharmaceutical residues or microplastics</i> ; whereas the main diffuse source of water pollution <i>and largest land user</i> is agriculture, with releases of nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants; <i>whereas diffuse pollution is an obstacle to the implementation of the polluter pays principle;</i>	We agree to point out the negative impacts of the incompliance with the UWWTD.  We would underline that the polluter pays principle should apply to identified, individual responsibilities. Translate individual responsibility on a whole industrial sector, in that case agriculture, means to denies the progresses made by those individuals that are acting responsibly avoiding whatever rewarding for their efforts. This attitude is indeed not motivational and has already brought an increasing lack of enthusiasm. Blaming the whole sector, instead of enhancing farmers' ownership of water protection will cause competitiveness unbalance between the virtuous, investing

		in sustainable practices, and those carrying BAU or overexploiting productive inputs.
F. whereas the main point source of water pollution in the EU is the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated urban and/or industrial waste water; whereas the main diffuse source of water pollution is agriculture, with releases of nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants;	<p><b>Amendment 61</b>  <b>Sara Cerdas, Maria Arena, Biljana Borzan, César Luena, Rovana Plumb, Tiemo Wölken, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Manuel Pizarro</b></p> <p>F. whereas the main point source of water pollution in the EU is the discharge of untreated or inadequately treated urban and/or industrial waste water; whereas the main diffuse source of water pollution is agriculture, with releases of nutrients, pesticides, <i>antibiotics</i> and other pollutants;</p>	Irrigated agriculture or the use of water doesn't relate to antibiotics release, which are from animal farming and not from irrigated crops. On the other hands, large part of the antibiotics comes into water from UTWW.
<b>Recital F a (new)</b>	<p><b>Amendment 63</b>  <b>Martin Häusling</b>  <i>Fa. whereas water-related provisions of the CAP have been clearly insufficient to support the objectives of the WFD;</i></p>	Water-related CAP provisions must be intended to support agriculture coping with climate change and fast increasing crop water demand <b>and</b> support more sustainable water uses as for the objectives of the WFD.
G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical pollution in surface and groundwater wherever possible at source as the most cost-effective measure;	<p><b>Amendment 64</b>  <b>Christophe Hansen, Pernille Weiss, Michal Wiezik, Inese Vaidere, Stanislav Polčák, Adam Jarubas, Mairead McGuinness</b></p> <p>G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical pollution in surface and groundwater <i>as a priority</i> at source as the most <i>sustainable and</i> cost-effective measure;</p>	We agree. To be supported.
G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical pollution in surface and groundwater wherever possible at source as the most cost-effective measure;	<p><b>Amendment 65</b>  <b>Martin Häusling</b></p> <p>G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical pollution in surface and groundwater <i>above all</i> at source as the <i>most effective and</i> most cost-effective measure;</p>	Similar to amendment 64, but the latter is more incisive.
G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical	<b>Amendment 66</b>	Similar to amendment 64. Tackling pollution at source

<p>pollution in surface and groundwater wherever possible at source as the most cost-effective measure;</p>	<p><b>Sara Cerdas, Maria Arena, Biljana Borzan, César Luena, Rovana Plumb, Tiemo Wölken, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Manuel Pizarro</b> G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical <i>and other causes of</i> pollution in surface and groundwater <i>as a priority</i> at source as the most <i>sustainable and</i> cost-effective measure, <i>while implementing the polluter-pays principle</i>;</p>	<p>means avoiding to pollute, therefore implementing the polluter pays principle in that context seems a non-sense.</p>
<p>G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical pollution in surface and groundwater wherever possible at source as the most cost-effective measure;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 67</b> <b>Nicolae Ștefănuță, Martin Hojsík, Catherine Chabaud</b> G. whereas it is of crucial importance to tackle chemical pollution in surface and groundwater wherever possible at source as the most cost-effective measure, <i>while implementing the polluter-pays principle</i></p>	<p>As for amendment 66: tackling pollution at source means avoiding polluting, therefore implementing the polluter pays principle in that context seems a non-sense.</p>
<p>H. whereas the Fitness Check found that the WFD “is sufficiently prescriptive with regard to the pressures to be addressed, and yet flexible enough to reinforce its implementation as necessary with regard to emerging challenges not mentioned in the Directive such as climate change, water scarcity and pollutants of emerging concern”;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 70</b> <b>Joanna Kopcińska</b> H. whereas the Fitness Check found that the WFD “is sufficiently prescriptive with regard to the pressures to be addressed, and yet flexible enough to reinforce its implementation as necessary with regard to emerging challenges not mentioned in the Directive such as climate change, water scarcity and pollutants of emerging concern”; <i>whereas, however, many of the stakeholders who took part in the public consultation did not agree with the view that there was sufficient flexibility</i>;</p>	<p>We agree. To be supported.</p>
<p><b>Recital J a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 81</b> <b>Nicolae Ștefănuță</b> <i>Ja. whereas there are situations where entities managing water bodies are</i></p>	<p>This statement is alleging that collective water management in agriculture, that has been proved the most effective way of governance, is biased by a serious conflict of interest. The</p>

	<i>financed from activities that deteriorate the chemical and ecological status of the water bodies, impeding the achievement of the objectives of the Water Framework Directive; whereas in such situations conflicts of interests are hard to avoid and they keep the entities managing water bodies in vicious circles, making them dependant on activities that deteriorate the water bodies;</i>	number of positive externalities generated by collective water bodies and the resources spent on water quality improvement, stimulus to sustainable water uses, landscape and biodiversity restoration are talking in favour of their role as facilitators of the transition towards a sustainable water use in agriculture. We firmly reject the offensive implication of amendment 81.
<b>Recital K a (new)</b>	<b>Amendment 90</b> <b>Anja Hazekamp</b> <i>Ka. whereas clean and sufficient water is an essential element to achieve a real circular economy;</i>	We agree.
L. whereas there are currently over 21.000 hydropower plants in Europe; whereas no comprehensive EU action has taken place for dam removal;	<b>Amendment 91</b> <b>Christophe Hansen, Pernille Weiss, Inese Vaidere, Adam Jarubas, Mairead McGuinness, Alexander Bernhuber</b> <i>deleted</i>	We agree to delete recital L
<b>Recital L a (new)</b>	<b>Amendment 100</b> <b>Eleonora Evi</b> <i>La. whereas the construction of certain hydraulic mitigation projects can pose significant threats to the health of local communities, to the quality of the groundwaters and to the environment;</i>	Hydraulic projects are usually submitted to Environmental Impact Assessment and presented and discussed with local stakeholders. Moreover, the possibly significant threats are site specific and must be assessed by appropriate risk analysis, duly considering also the involved trade-offs. This too general amendment must be rejected.
<b>Recital L c (new)</b>	<b>Amendment 103</b> <b>Claudia Gamon, Nils Torvalds, Ulrike Müller, Andreas Glück, Jan Huitema</b> <i>Lc. whereas pumped hydro storage accounts for more than 90% of the EU's energy storage capacity; whereas there will be a massive increase of energy storage to secure grid</i>	We agree, it's matter of trade-off. In that case the gain in sustainability of the energy sector will compensate the unavoidable' hydro morphological alterations. If the "energy storage basins" are made for multiple purposes also other sectors including irrigated agriculture and flood protection

	<i>stability and power supply due to an increased share of renewables, given their higher volatility;</i>	will benefit counterbalancing negative trade-offs.
3. Regrets that the objectives of the WFD still are not reached mainly due to inadequate funding, particularly slow implementation, insufficient enforcement and broad use of the exemptions of the Directive, <i>that integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies have been insufficient, and that half of the EU's water bodies are still not in a good status;</i>	<b>Amendment 125</b> <b>Joanna Kopcińska</b> 3. Regrets <i>that half the water bodies in the EU have still not attained good status</i> , that the objectives of the WFD still are not reached mainly due to inadequate funding, particularly slow implementation, insufficient enforcement and broad use of the exemptions of the Directive, <i>and due to changes in the aquatic environment occurring naturally or in connection with climate change;</i>	We agree. An evolutionary, dynamic, approach to adaptation is strongly needed. Many pressures, from air temperature to changes in the flowering seasonality and insect population blooming, are forcing aquatic environments to evolve. We are tacking the risk to focus on preservation of a natural environment that is changing anyhow. We call for adapting water management to the aquatic environment we'll have to protect.
3. Regrets that the objectives of the WFD still are not reached mainly due to inadequate funding, particularly slow implementation, insufficient enforcement and broad use of the exemptions of the Directive, <i>that integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies have been insufficient, and that half of the EU's water bodies are still not in a good status;</i>	3. Regrets that the objectives of the WFD still are not reached mainly due to inadequate funding, particularly slow implementation, insufficient enforcement and broad use of the exemptions of the Directive, <i>that integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies have been insufficient, and that half of the EU's water bodies are still not in a good status; encourages the Commission to promote private investment through forms of 'financing projects', thereby involving the private sector in the achievement of the objectives;</i>	We welcome the private funds raising as a viable alternative to subtract most needed resources to other EU funding schemas.
4. Notes that climate change can have a significant negative impact on freshwater sources with droughts leading to depleted river flows and higher concentrations of pollutants, and intense rainfall leading to increased urban and agricultural run-off; emphasises that increasing temperatures lead to increased	<b>Amendment 137</b> <b>Ulrike Müller, Claudia Gamon, Nils Torvalds</b> 4. Notes that climate change can have a significant negative impact on freshwater sources with droughts leading to depleted river flows and higher concentrations of pollutants, and intense rainfall leading to increased urban and	We agree.

<p>water stress, impacting several economic sectors; underlines that resilience of water ecosystems, flooding <i>and</i> water scarcity should be duly taken into account in the upcoming EU climate adaptation strategy;</p>	<p>agricultural run-off; emphasises that increasing temperatures lead to increased water stress, impacting several economic sectors; underlines that resilience of water ecosystems, flooding, water scarcity <i>and their impact on food production</i> should be duly taken into account in the upcoming EU climate adaptation strategy <i>according to Article 2 (1) (b) of the Paris Agreement</i>;</p>	
<p><b>Paragraph 4 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 143</b>  <b>Christophe Hansen, Pernille Weiss, Michal Wiezik, Stanislav Polčák, Adam Jarubas, Mairead McGuinness, Alexander Bernhuber</b>  <i>4a. Notes that increased water stress will have consequences for several economic sectors that depend on high water abstraction and use such as irrigated agriculture, hydropower generation, use of cooling water and the paper industry;</i></p>	<p>We agree</p>
<p>6. Notes that the “one-out-all-out”- principle <i>should remain intact, yet</i> poses a problem in the communication on progress made with regards to single parameters; calls for complementary reporting methodologies (such as distance to target); highlights the importance of transparency and provision of comprehensive information to the public on the quality of water in the EU;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 166</b>  <b>Mick Wallace, Clare Daly</b>          6. Notes that the “one-out-all-out”- principle <i>should remain intact, yet</i> poses a problem in the communication on progress made with regards to single parameters; calls for complementary reporting methodologies (such as distance to target); highlights the importance of transparency and provision of comprehensive information to the public on the quality of water in the EU;</p>	<p>We are not in favour of the “one-out-all-out”- principle, therefore we agree avoiding statements that are intended to lock this principle.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 6 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 174</b>  <b>Anja Hazekamp</b></p>	<p>This amendment put an unfair burden on agriculture. As for any other industry, significant and swift reductions of production inputs must be</p>

	<p><b>6a. Is particularly worried about the role of intensive agriculture in the failure of achieving a good status of water quality in many Member States; calls on the Commission and the Member States to ensure that the Common Agricultural Policy and the Farm to Fork Strategy, as well as the Nitrate action programmes and the National Action Plans for sustainable use of pesticides work towards a significant and swift reduction of agricultural pollution of surface and groundwaters with nutrients, pesticides and other pollutants;</b></p>	<p>backed by offering alternatives, innovation and novel markets. Consumers behaviours and global food markets are more and more asking for aesthetic quality, which can be obtained only by a large use of nutrients and pesticides. An in-depth change of consumers behaviour will result in a significant reduction of pesticides and nutrients misuses, just because a larger quota of the total production will be profitably marketable. Agricultural production is driven by the market, and the market is not either made or driven by farmers.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 7 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 178</b>  <b>Hermann Tertsch,</b>  <b>Margarita de la Pisa Carrión</b>  <b>7a. Supports the continued modernisation of irrigation infrastructure through innovation and new technologies.</b></p>	<p>We strongly agree.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 8 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 187</b>  <b>Mick Wallace, Clare Daly</b>  <b>8a. Recalls Article 9(4) of the WFD, which states that Member States shall not be in breach of this Directive if they decide in accordance with established practices not to apply water-pricing policies, where this does not compromise the purposes and the achievement of the objectives of this Directive; reminds that some Member States do not apply water pricing policies and instead pay for their water services through general taxation, while still maintaining a high level of water conservation;</b></p>	<p>We agree.</p>
<p>9. Highlights the importance of further addressing</p>	<p><b>Amendment 196</b></p>	<p>We agree.</p>

<p>eutrophication of both fresh and salt waters caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from <i>wastewater and other</i> sources, including from agriculture;</p>	<p><b>Sara Cerdas, Maria Arena, Biljana Borzan, César Luena, Rovana Plumb, Tiemo Wölken, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Manuel Pizarro</b>  <b>9.</b> Highlights the importance of <i>significantly stepping up actions to address</i> eutrophication of both fresh and salt waters caused by nitrogen and phosphorus from <i>all</i> sources, including from agriculture <i>and untreated or inappropriately treated waste water</i>;</p>	
<p>13. Notes that the UWWTD does not sufficiently reflect the problems of storm water overflows and urban runoff, individual systems and small agglomerations;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 232</b>  <b>Nicolae Ștefănuță, Martin Hojsík, Catherine Chabaud</b>  13. Notes that the UWWTD does not sufficiently reflect the problems of storm water overflows and urban runoff, individual systems and small agglomerations; <i>believes that monitoring and controlling the effect of storm water overflows and urban run-off should be better addressed, since this significantly pollutes receiving surface and ground water bodies</i></p>	<p>We agree.</p>
<p>13. Notes that the UWWTD does not sufficiently reflect the problems of storm water overflows and urban runoff, individual systems and small agglomerations;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 234</b>  <b>Edina Tóth</b>  13. Notes that the UWWTD does not sufficiently reflect the problems of storm water overflows and urban runoff, individual systems and small agglomerations <i>and the impacts of the treated waste water to the recipient water body</i>;</p>	<p>We agree.</p>
<p>14. Calls on Member States to achieve full compliance with the WFD as soon as possible, and in any case no later than 2027;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 240</b>  <b>Joanna Kopcińska</b>  14. Calls on Member States to achieve full compliance with the WFD as soon as possible, and in any case no later than</p>	<p>We agree.</p>

	<p>2027; <i>considers, however, that plans should be drawn up in the event that the 2027 targets are not met if this occurs due to reasons beyond the control of the Member States, such as climatic conditions or natural changes in ecosystems;</i></p>	
<p>17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 260</b>  <b>Sara Cerdas, Maria Arena, Biljana Borzan, Rovana Plumb, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Manuel Pizarro and</b>  <b>Amendment 261</b>  <b>Martin Häusling</b>          17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy <i>and Farm to Fork Strategy; regrets however the lack of attention to water quantity issues, which are closely related to over abstraction for agricultural irrigation; calls on the European Commission to place freshwater pollution (pesticides, biocides, pharmaceuticals) and over abstraction as one of the priority topics in the CAP-related recommendations to Member States and in the revision of the CAP Strategic Plans;</i></p>	<p>The strong focus on water abstraction from agriculture and on nutrients and pesticide is redundant. Water quantity issues are typically managed at regional scale, and often a higher quantity of water has to be kept into the riverbed to secure dilution of pollutants that are not coming only from agriculture.</p>
<p>17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)</p>	<p><b>Amendment 263</b>  <b>Adam Jarubas</b>          17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)</p>	<p>We agree.</p>

<p>with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy;</p>	<p>with the WFD regarding the water protection measures in agriculture <b>and adequate budgetary resources supporting their implementation;</b> welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy; <b>calls for the addition of ecological financing in the framework of the CAP revision, in order to aid agriculture in EU in tackling climate change and water pollution challenges, and in order to ensure sustainable water management;</b></p>	
<p>17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 266</b> <b>Ulrike Müller, Nils Torvalds</b> 17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture, <b>for instance through higher efficiency in nutrient use;</b> welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy; <b>stresses the need for additional financing of ecological measures in the framework of the CAP revision in order to tackle climate change and to ensure sustainable water management;</b></p>	<p>We agree.</p>
<p>17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the</p>	<p><b>Amendment 267</b> <b>Tiemo Wölken</b> 17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in</p>	<p>We agree.</p>

<p>objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy;</p>	<p>agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy; <i>stresses the need to considerably increase financing in both pillars of the CAP in order to tackle climate change and improve soil quality and water management;</i></p>	
<p>17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 268</b> <b>Stanislav Polčák</b> 17. Stresses the need for alignment of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with the WFD regarding the need for increased water protection measures in agriculture; welcomes the inclusion of improved nutrient management as one of the objectives of the new CAP Strategic Plans and of the Biodiversity Strategy; <i>calls for the addition of financial measures in the framework of the CAP revision in order to ensure sustainable water management;</i></p>	<p>We agree.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 17 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 275</b> <b>Sara Cerdas, Maria Arena, Biljana Borzan, Rovana Plumb, Tiemo Wölken, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Manuel Pizarro</b> <i>17a. Considers that water-related provisions of the CAP to date have been clearly insufficient to support the objectives of the WFD; stresses the need for the future CAP to ensure policy coherence by reinforcing the water related elements of conditionality, making</i></p>	<p>We strongly disagree. Modernisation of irrigated agriculture has been supported by CAP and has delivered significant improvements of agricultural water uses sustainability. Investments for irrigation, as any other investment, must be evaluated in a broader context than the achievement of WFD goal in 2027. Again, trade-offs and socio-economic impacts must be duly considered and evaluated.</p>

	<p><i>the Natura 2000 and WFD payments mandatory for Member States, and including strong safeguards for any investment support for irrigation to be in line with the achievement of good water status by 2027</i></p>	
<p><b>Paragraph 17 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 276</b> <b>Martin Häusling</b> <i>17a. Stresses the need for the future CAP to ensure policy coherence by i) reinforcing the water-related elements of conditionality, ii) making the Natura 2000 and WFD payments mandatory for Member States, and iii) including strong safeguards for any investment support for irrigation to be in line with the achievement of good water status by 2027;</i></p>	<p>See comments to amendment 275</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 19 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 308</b> <b>Michal Wiezik</b> <i>19a. Notes that one area in which the WFD was viewed by stakeholders as ineffective is managing the effects of droughts<sup>1a</sup>; highlights in this respect that Member States choices for EU funding often do not shy away from intention to extend the irrigated area despite a less than good quantitative status of water bodies in the respective river basin; reiterates that public spending should contribute to objectives of the Water Framework Directive and needed adaptation, and should never go counter these goals;</i></p>	<p>We reject this statement that referring to some cases, as for the knowledge of the proposer, blame the extension of irrigated areas as always negative and not sustainable. Again the source is the Fitness check, which reliability and impartiality are questionable.</p>
<p><b>Paragraph 19 a (new)</b></p>	<p><b>Amendment 310</b> <b>Hermann Tertsch,</b> <b>Margarita de la Pisa Carrión</b></p>	<p>We agree.</p>

	<p><b>19a. Stresses the need to equip the European Drought Observatory with an early warning system with remote sensing indicators capable of monitoring the state of vegetation and its response to drought</b></p>	
<p>20. Suggests to address droughts with projects for the reuse of disused quarries, transformed into basins to contain rainwater and flood waves; encourages research and investments in this direction;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 315</b> <b>Marco Dreosto</b> 20. Suggests to address droughts with projects for the reuse of disused quarries, transformed into basins to contain rainwater and flood waves; encourages research and investments in this direction; <i>suggests involving also the agricultural sector, as it is the sector most affected by situations of drought and flooding; suggests, in addition, involving the Civil Protection department, which could be an asset in this process;</i></p>	<p>We agree.</p>
<p>23. Calls for increased action at Union and Member State level to tackle pollutants of emerging concern, such as microplastics and pharmaceuticals;</p>	<p><b>Amendment 343</b> <b>Sara Cerdas, Maria Arena, Biljana Borzan, César Luena, Rovana Plumb, Tiemo Wölken, Tudor Ciuhodaru, Manuel Pizarro</b></p> <p>23. Calls for increased action at Union and Member State level to tackle pollutants of emerging concern, such as microplastics, <i>endocrine-disrupting chemicals</i> and pharmaceuticals <i>through a parallel approach starting with control at source measures and last-resort complementary end-of-pipe solutions; calls on the Commission and Member</i></p>	<p>We agree</p>

	<p><i>States to fully apply a life-cycle approach to pollutants, while implementing the polluter-pays principle, including through innovative instruments such as Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes, in order to finance treatment solutions;</i></p>	
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