

ANNEX I – FULL LIST OF ACTIONS

	ACTIONS	Timeline
RESTORING AND PROTECTING THE WATER CYCLE		
	Establish, including through Structured Dialogues with Member States, implementation priorities of the Water Framework and the Floods Directives, focusing on water quality and quantity.	2025-2026
	Revise the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.	2027
	Develop water scarcity indicators and a Technical Guidance on Drought Management Plans.	2026-2027
	<p>To address main sources of pollution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public-private initiative to achieve a technological breakthrough in feasible and affordable methods for the detection and remediation of PFAS and other persistent chemicals, if the right partners are found. Launch an Assistance Toolbox for Member States to support actions to reduce nutrients pollution, including through enhanced modelling, interactive maps and exchanges of best practices. 	<p>2027</p> <p>2026-2027</p>
BUILDING A WATER-SMART ECONOMY THAT LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND, SUPPORTS EU COMPETITIVENESS AND ATTRACTS INVESTORS		
	Recommendation on the Water Efficiency First principle, guidelines and EEA report on the untapped water efficiency potential.	2025-2026
	Support the uptake of water reuse practices also beyond agriculture and review the Water Reuse Regulation.	2026-2028
	<p><u>Public water supply:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support leakage reduction and infrastructure modernisation and deep data assessment. 	2025-2028
	<p><u>Agriculture:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise the use of CAP Strategic Plans for water resilience through knowledge sharing and innovative solutions promoted by the EU CAP network, the European Innovation Partnership (EIP-AGRI), as well as improved and independent farm advisory services. In the next programming period, continue to incentivise farmers to improve the environmental and climate performance of their holdings, including towards better water management. 	2025-2026
	<p><u>Industry and Energy:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch a pilot project to promote water efficiency, including waterless and closed water cycle technologies, in selected industrial clusters. Include water usage among the parameters of a common Union scheme to rate the sustainability of data centres and propose water consumption minimum performance standards. Public-private initiative to achieve a technological breakthrough in feasible and affordable methods for dry cooling, if the right partners are found. 	2025-2026

	Promote an exchange of best practices on freshwater balances, accounting of water flows, water efficiency, and smart water metering across all economic sectors	As from 2025
	Assess the quality of the data available on water and, where appropriate, submit a legislative proposal for the introduction of new environmental economic account modules for water accounts.	By the end of 2026
SECURING CLEAN AND AFFORDABLE WATER FOR ALL, EMPOWERING CONSUMERS AND OTHER USERS		
	Address the water footprint of products when setting or updating requirements under the ESPR and the EU Ecolabel.	2025-2027
	Promote best practices on public awareness and the role of water pricing to promote water efficiency, cost recovery and the polluter pays principle, and related national water governance.	2026-2027
	Boost efforts towards water resilience across the built environment through the upcoming work programme 2026-2027 of the New European Bauhaus Facility and in the upcoming Affordable Housing Plan.	2026
GOVERNANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION TO BOOST CHANGE		
	Step up enforcement and launch structured dialogues with all Member States to accelerate and scale up implementation of the EU water acquis, based on key enforcement priorities stemming from the latest assessment of the River Basin and Flood Risk Management Plans.	2025-2026
	Under Cohesion for Transitions Community of Practice, organize a regular exchange with regions, cities and water authorities, to promote exchange of best practices on “sponge landscapes” and transboundary water cooperation identified under Interreg.	2025-2027
	Launch a viewer integrating environmental data with data related to the water and energy grids to assist Member States in their spatial planning efforts to identify the best areas for win-win localisation of water-intensive business operations.	2027
	Create a Water Resilience Forum.	As from 2026
FINANCE, INVESTMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO ACHIEVE A STABLE SUPPLY		
	Launch of EIB Water Programme and Sustainable Water Advisory Facility in cooperation with the Commission to step up the assistance to potential loan-takers, increasing the pipeline of projects.	2025
	Support Member States and regions in reorienting Cohesion policy funds for water resilience within the mid-term review.	2025
	Establish a Water Resilience Investment Accelerator.	2026-2027
	Launch a Green and Blue Corridors initiative to support the restoration of ecological settings and infrastructure including rivers, wetlands, and coastal restoration to restore the water cycle with a source-to-sea approach.	2027
	Adopt a Roadmap for Nature Credits to tap the potential of these instruments and incentivise the scale-up of these markets.	2025
	Use the Technical Support Instrument to help Member States addressing water-related challenges, particularly those identified in the European Semester.	As from 2025

DIGITALISATION AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO ACCELERATE AND SIMPLIFY SOUND WATER MANAGEMENT		
	Develop and implement Destination Earth and EU Digital Twin of the Ocean applications for water resilience, and by 2030, make the capabilities available to national and local administrations in the EU and beyond.	2025-2030
	Develop an EU-wide Action Plan on digitalisation in the water sector including an EU-wide initiative on Smart metering for all.	2026
	Launch a Copernicus Water Thematic Hub.	2026
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION, WATER INDUSTRY AND SKILLS TO STRENGTHEN COMPETITIVENESS		
	Science/policy interface to disseminate the results of EU-funded R&I projects e.g. through a one-stop shop platform.	2026
	Water Resilience R&I strategy.	2026
	Water Smart Industrial Alliance to stimulate competitiveness.	2026
	European Water Academy.	2026-2027
	Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in Water, Marine and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems under the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).	2026
	Promote further research and innovation to promote sustainable desalination.	2026
	Water Tech challenge, in cooperation with the EIC.	tbd
SECURITY AND PREPAREDNESS TO BOOST COLLECTIVE RESILIENCE		
	Enhance resilience of on- and offshore water infrastructure through the implementation of the Critical Entities Resilience Directive.	2025
	Enhance EU real-time early warning and monitoring systems by strengthening the European Drought Observatory and the European Flood Awareness System of the Copernicus Emergency Management Service.	As from 2025
	Adopt a European Climate Adaptation Plan.	2026
	Strengthen the prevention of water-borne infectious diseases through the implementation of Regulation (EU) 2022/2371 on Serious Cross-border Threats to Health.	As from 2022
ACTING GLOBALLY – LEADING BY EXAMPLE, COMMITMENT AND INITIATIVES		
	Promote water resilience through the Global Gateway by support for priority water-related initiatives and reinforced country and regional engagement.	As from 2025
	Strengthen global water governance by engaging in discussions on a future global water governance framework.	As from 2025
	Foster cross-border water cooperation through supporting accession to the UN Water Convention.	As from 2025
	Support the access to an improved drinking water source and/or sanitation facility for at least 70 million individuals, unlock larger investments and boost competitiveness of the EU water industry.	ongoing
	Significantly scale up investment in nature-based solutions in infrastructures or in conjunction with infrastructures.	As from 2026
	Mainstream water in international processes, including the three Rio Conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification.	As from 2025

	Enhance implementation of water-related goals and targets ⁸⁰ of the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	ongoing
	Enhance EU engagement in the Ramsar Convention.	As from 2025
	Strengthen engagement in inter-alia G7, G20, the Transboundary Water Cooperation Coalition, the Freshwater Challenge and the Baku Water Dialogue.	As from 2025
	Assess the investment needs for each candidate country to comply with the water acquis.	As from 2026
	Step up engagement in the Union for Mediterranean and the Blue Mediterranean Partnership.	As from 2025

⁸⁰ <https://www.cbd.int/gbf/targets>