

To the attention of Commissioner Dan Jørgensen
Commissioner for Energy and Housing

Brussels, 16.02.2025

Subject: Meeting request to discuss EU water policy

Dear Commissioner JØRGENSEN,

As we stand at the crossroads of the triple planetary crisis¹ the world is facing, your leadership in championing the resilience of our most precious resource - water - is not just a necessity; it's an urgent call for the future of our planet and its people.

Each corner of Europe is increasingly affected by either too much, too little, too polluted water, or a combination thereof. Together, these water challenges constitute a water crisis that is finally coming to the attention of the public and European policymakers as it puts at risk the availability of a resource that is essential to our society, economy, and environment.

The call for an EU Blue Deal² and an action plan by the EU Economic and Social Committee as well as the EU Committee of the Regions³, which has resonated widely across Europe has culminated in the announcement of a Water Resilience Strategy by President von der Leyen in the Political Guidelines 2024-2029⁴. The recent European Environment Agency (EEA) report *Europe's State of Water 2024*⁵ also reminds us of the urgency of ensuring our resilience against water-related extreme events and ensuring sustainable freshwater supplies.

As Commissioner for Energy and Housing, you will lead the work on moving forward the EU's **energy transition**. Your mission will pave the way to a social and just transition. Yet, such a transition cannot happen without overarching and holistic action on the **Water Resilience Strategy** in close cooperation with the College of Commissioners; each should value water in their respective portfolio.

Therefore, we, a group of European members-based organisations representing a wide range of water stakeholders across the entire value chain (associations, NGOs, academia, large water users, SMEs, water operators, and local authorities), kindly request a meeting with you to discuss the following points linked to your mission:

- The scope of the **Water Resilience Strategy** and the urgent need of prioritising water during this mandate, ensuring it is fully integrated into other initiatives, such as the **Clean Industrial Deal and the EU Climate Adaptation Plan**, and the adoption of a strategic roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector for improved water and energy efficiency;

¹ Climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss.

² European Economic and Social Committee, Declaration for an EU blue Deal, 2024 <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/documents/declaration-eu-blue-deal> ² European Economic and Social Committee, Declaration for an EU blue Deal, Brussels, 2024 <https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en/documents/declaration-eu-blue-deal>

³ We refer to two options: Committee of Regions, *Creating an EU Blue deal from an agriculture and rural development perspective across EU Regions*, 2024 <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions/cdr-5513-2023> and Committee of Regions, *Towards a resilient water management to fight climate crisis within an EU Blue Deal*, 2024 <https://cor.europa.eu/en/our-work/opinions/cdr-5587-2023>.

⁴ European Commission, *Europe's choice: political guidelines for the next European Commissions 2024-2029*, 2024. https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

⁵ European Environment Agency. *Europe's State of Water 2024*, 2024, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/europes-state-of-water-2024>.

- The implementation of the **Water Resilience Strategy** as an enabler of the clean and renewable energy transition;
- **Formal recognition of the water-energy nexus** and initiate strategic discussions within DG ENER to integrate this concept into policy and planning frameworks whilst recognising a balance between co-benefits and trade-offs;
- The importance of a sustainable **EU Affordable Housing Plan to integrate water resilience and efficiency** in relation to utility costs and mitigating the financial and structural risks associated with water disasters, such as floods and droughts.
- The need to **advance water efficiency measures in buildings** through metering and smart technologies, ensuring the efficient use of resources, reducing the environmental footprint of the built environment and alleviating water stress in urban areas;
- The **role of the European water-related Research and Innovation projects** in developing solutions fostering water reuse from energy-intensive industries;
- **Availability of public and private financial resources** in water infrastructure and maintenance;
- The **place of water policy in stakeholders' dialogues** and the reporting on this policy in the annual progress report on enforcement and implementation.

We look forward to your views and remain at your disposal for a meeting to exchange further on those questions and discuss ways we, the signatories, can be supportive.

Kind regards

On behalf of the signatories

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List of signatories

