

Towards a resilient water management to fight climate crisis within an EU Blue Deal

**Loïc Charpentier,
Innovation Policy Manger - Water Europe
Rapporteur's expert on CoR water resilience**



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- Two resolutions in [2021](#) and [2023](#).
- Foreseen the council conclusion on the 8th EAP in June 2024.
- [RewaterEU](#) initiative in December 2024.
- EU Belgian presidency conference on water – 12 March



- Joint letter with the EP and EESC.
- Water is recognised once again in the [Resolution](#) for the COP28.



European Committee of the Regions

- Opinion of the Committee Environment – adopted by unanimity in April 2023 - plenary in June).
- Opinion of the Committee Agriculture – foreseen in June.
- Joint letter with the EP and EESC.
- Green Week Event in Carcassonne on the 2nd July.



European Economic and Social Committee

- [EU Blue Deal](#) Declaration
- The Foreseen opinion on best practices for industry (May/June)



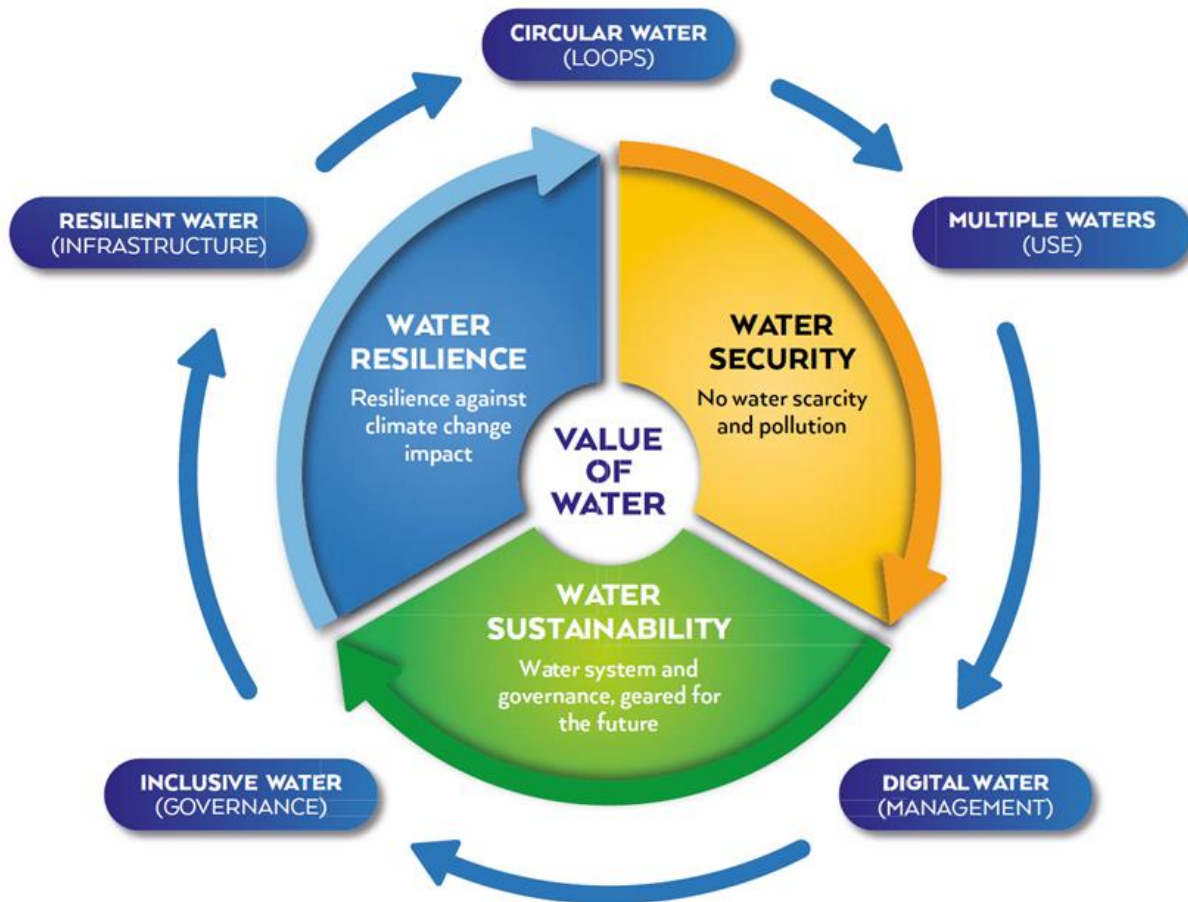
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Contextual Request

- stresses the importance of achieving a Water-Smart Society and urges the European Commission and Member States to work with local and regional authorities (LRAs).
- calls on the next Commission to prioritise the adoption of the Water Resilience initiative and to make water a strategic priority for its next 2024-2029 mandate.



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Source: Water Europe

Water-Smart Society:

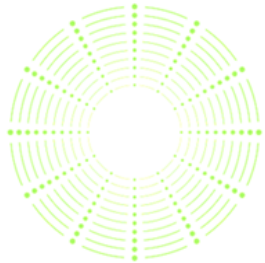
- A society in which the value of water is recognised and realised to ensure water security, sustainability, and resilience.
- all available water sources are managed so that water scarcity and pollution are avoided.
- water and resource loops are largely closed to foster a circular economy and optimal resource efficiency.
- the water system is resilient against the impact of climate and demographic change.
- all relevant stakeholders are engaged in guaranteeing sustainable water governance.



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Water Resilience Initiative

- Announced by Von der Leyen during the 13 September 2023 during the State of the Union.
- The WRI was announced on the 12th March 2024.
- Postpone *sine die* by the EC mid-February.



A European Green Deal

- European Wind Power Package
- 2040 climate target
- Initiative for water resilience

The EU Green Week paired with the waterwise campaign are the two last remaining tools of the water package.

- The main conference will take place on the 29-30 May in Brussels
- Partners events will take place up to the 1st September
- The main topic are:
 - fostering a water smart economy within the EU
 - addressing the challenges of restoring and safeguarding the disrupted water cycle
 - ensuring widespread access to clean and affordable water and
 - sanitation and international water cooperation.

The 2024 EU Green Week is part of [#WaterWiseEU](#), a campaign to stimulate an EU-wide conversation around water today and in the future. The campaign aims at fostering awareness and promoting positive, collaborative solutions.



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Recognition of additional aspects

- Recognise different nexus (water-soils ; WEF+E+H)
- Recognise the international dimension of water.
- Note there is an European Consensus for a Water strategy
- Note that water is a local and the LRAs play a key role in the implementation
 - Notes that LRAs hold key responsibilities in water management, including price setting and service supervision, transboundary river basin management, urban planning
 - Raise the importance of collaboration with non-EU LRAs (e.g. ARLEM)
- Recognise a need to better implement the access to water and sanitation principle
- Require to mobilise the whole society to tackle water challenges.
 - Circular economy and water efficiency
 - Digitalisation
- Encourage to leverage Research and Innovation activities



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Main Recommendations

1. Ambitious and holistic water strategy for Europe
2. Include water-related objectives in all the sectoral policies of the EU
3. Assess the EU legislation and include additional drivers – if needed to ensure the relevant quality and quantity of water for all the uses and users.
4. Strengthen the inclusive and multilevel governance, adopting the « One water » approach
5. Strengthen the financial support and facilitate access to such funds for the LRAs
6. Better implement the Polluter-Pays Principle
7. Adopt a water-efficiency first principle in the EU along with the energy efficiency first principle
8. Strengthen transparency and data disclosure
9. Support Innovation and Research in water
10. Strengthen International cooperation



EU Green Week
PARTNER EVENT

Innovative & resilient water basin management for cities and regions

EU Committee of the Regions
31st May 2024

#WaterWiseEU



Hosted by



European Committee
of the Regions