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Mr Maroš ŠEFČOVIČ
Executive Vice-President of the European
Commission
European Commission
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By email only
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JOINT LETTER TO THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Europe needs a strong EU Blue Deal supporting water resilience

Dear Mr Šefčovič,

Water is a fundamental resource for life, for our ecosystems, economic activities and society as a whole. However, Europe is increasingly facing water challenges that require immediate attention and coordinated action. Many EU policies do not adequately address water and the challenges that lie ahead.

The recent indefinite postponement of the Water Resilience Initiative casts doubt on the EU's determination to address the water crisis, which is already impacting citizens, farmers, industries and the environment. Urgent, decisive measures are needed to pave Europe's way to water resilience and to safeguard the availability and quality of water for our present and future generations.

This is why we **reiterate our call for an ambitious EU Blue Deal**, establishing water as a top priority for the European Union. We call on the European Commission to make water a strategic priority in its coming term (2024-2029).

Given the vital nature of water and the magnitude of the challenges ahead, a change of scale is needed. Water is more than an environmental policy under the EU Green Deal: it must be mainstreamed into all EU policies. To that end, the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Members of the European Parliament, representing 16 different countries and five political groups, have called for an EU Blue Deal to be adopted as a standalone crosscutting strategic priority.

The EU Blue Deal must be bold in its proposals and innovative in its approach. Water must be addressed comprehensively, shifting from a 'silo approach' to a holistic and collaborative approach that caters for all the different aspects of water management (supply, use, quality, protection, restoration and governance) across sectors (agriculture, environment, industry, energy, tourism, domestic uses, social aspects of access to water, geopolitics, etc). The EU Blue Deal should be designed with a water-smart strategy based on guiding principles and concrete action. It needs to be built and implemented in partnership with all relevant stakeholders (representatives of citizens, organised civil society and local and regional authorities) and with the requisite funds, knowledge and skills.

The cost of inaction is too high – the time to act is now.

We therefore call on the European Commission to publish the Water Resilience Initiative without delay, and we look forward to contributing to the public debate on what is needed to make the EU more water resilient, today and tomorrow.

Europe needs and deserves a strategic and ambitious EU Blue Deal. This holistic approach will allow us to turn water challenges into opportunities while securing a water-smart and sustainable future, leaving no one and no place behind.

Yours sincerely,



Pernille Weiss
Member of the European Parliament
Chair of the MEP Water Group



Pietro Francesco de Lotto
President of the Consultative
Commission on Industrial Change
and Coordinator for the EU Blue
Deal, European Economic and Social
Committee (EESC)



André Viola
Member of the European Committee
of Regions, Rapporteur for the
opinion Towards a resilient water
management to fight climate crisis
within an EU Blue Deal