



Brussels, 7.1.2025
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DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION
of 7.1.2025

on the establishment of a Commissioners' Project Group on Water Resilience

**Decision of the President of the European Commission
on the establishment of a Commissioners' Project Group on Water Resilience**

THE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community,

Having regard to the Commission's Rules of Procedure, and in particular Article 3(6) thereof,

Whereas the Commission's work to improve water management and resilience requires cooperation across a number of portfolios to deliver the best results.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

- (1) A Project Group on Water Resilience is set up to support delivering on this project. It shall facilitate the joint work in line with the Political Guidelines and the Mission Letters.
- (2) Without prejudice to the decision-making process of the College and the responsibility of the collegial preparatory bodies, the Project Group shall ensure timely preparation and provide political steer for the development of the initiatives and implementation of priorities. It shall support the preparation of the European Water Resilience Strategy to strengthen water security and of its related deliverables, also considering its indispensable role for economic competitiveness, food and energy security, human health and environment.
- (3) The Project Group shall develop an integrated and innovative approach for management of water resources to ensure water security, resilience, sustainability and innovation through development and deployment of water-related technologies. This should help enhance the competitive innovative edge of the EU's water industry, develop clean tech, take a circular economy approach and include proposals to digitalise water management, cycles and utilities.
- (4) The Project Group shall ensure proper articulation with the European Climate Adaptation Plan, the European Civil Defence Mechanism, the European Ocean Pact and the new Vision for Agriculture and Food.
- (5) The Project Group shall develop a European dimension to water policies including facilitating public and private investment in technology and cross-border water infrastructure.
- (6) The Project Group shall promote a cohesive approach to water management, tailored to the specific conditions of each Member State.

(7) The Project Group shall develop the conceptual framework for a ‘water efficiency first’ principle.

(8) The Project Group shall integrate the external dimension by strengthening Europe’s global role on water policies, notably with the support of Global Gateway projects to strengthen water infrastructure in partner countries.

(9) The Project Group shall oversee the implementation of the European Water Resilience Strategy and regularly take stock of progress towards its policy objectives. As part of this, promote improved monitoring and foresight to underpin policy responses at EU and national levels and take stock of national implementation of early warning systems, predictive capabilities and disaster risk reduction policies.

Article 2

(1) The Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy shall chair the Project Group.

(2) The composition of the Project Group shall be as follows:

- Executive Vice-President for Clean, Just and Competitive Transition,
- Executive Vice-President for Prosperity and Industrial Strategy,
- Executive Vice-President for Cohesion and Reforms,
- Commissioner for Climate, Net Zero and Clean Growth,
- Commissioner for International Partnerships,
- Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans,
- Commissioner for Equality; Preparedness and Crisis Management,
- Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy,
- Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, and
- Commissioner for Agriculture and Food.

(3) The President may decide to attend and chair the Project Group. Other Executive Vice-Presidents and Commissioners may participate in relevant meetings of the Project Group and contribute to the work on invitation by the chair.

(4) The chair decides for each meeting if participants can be accompanied by one or more staff members, either from the Cabinet or Services.

(5) The Secretary-General of the Commission or a Deputy Secretary-General, the Director-

General of the Legal Service or his or her Deputy, the Director General of Directorate-General for Communication or his or her Deputy, and the Cabinet of the President, have standing invitations to attend the meetings of the Project Group.

Article 3

- (1) The Secretariat-General shall ensure the secretariat of the Project Group.
- (2) The secretariat shall assist in the organisation of the Project Group's meetings and prepare draft agendas. The secretariat shall ensure the timely preparation and/or circulation of meeting documents (short discussion notes, background).
- (3) The agendas of meetings of the Project Group shall be decided by the chair in agreement with the Cabinet of the President. Participants may suggest items to be included in the agenda.
- (4) The chair shall draw the conclusions of the meeting which shall be circulated by the secretariat. The conclusions shall be published on the Commission website unless the chair decides otherwise depending on the nature of the discussions.

Article 4

- (1) The Project Group is established for an initial period of one year.
- (2) The Project Group may continue to operate subsequently if the President decides to renew its mandate under the same or revised terms.

Done at Brussels, 7 January 2025.

The President

Ursula VON DER LEYEN