



## Call to Adopt an Ambitious EU Blue Deal

*There is no Green without Blue!*



We, as elected representatives of the citizens from the Member States of the European Union, jointly call with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on the EU Heads of state and government to **support, develop and adopt an ambitious European Blue Deal**. This strategy will be crucial to protect our invaluable water resources for our present and future generations, our environment, and industries. The EU Blue Deal shall be carried out in cooperation with the relevant European Institutions and have political accountability within the Commission in the upcoming term (2024-2029). This joint call coincides with the work of the EESC, which represents the voice of organised civil society in Europe, as they will present in October a "[Call for an EU Blue Deal](#)", further emphasising the need for a common EU approach to water.

### **Water is a fundamental resource that sustains life on earth, our ecosystems and economy.**

However, Europe is increasingly facing water challenges that require immediate attention and coordinated action. This summer's droughts and floods across several regions in Europe, while July was recorded as the world's hottest month, highlights once more the urgency to take action. The impacts of climate change, urbanization, industrialization, and agricultural practices have put immense pressure on our water resources. It is therefore imperative that we take proactive measures to ensure the availability and quality of water for everyone.

**Water must become a top priority for the European Union.** First, **we need an ambitious and coherent EU Blue Deal**. Not only is the sustainable management of water key to the success of the Green Deal presented in 2020, but the blue economy itself offers many opportunities if we strike the right balance between the benefits and protection of our water resources.

**This EU Blue Deal should be designed with a water-smart strategy in mind.** This strategy includes to shift from a 'silo approach' to a holistic and collaborative one in view of mastering the various aspects of water management (supply, use, quality, protection, restoration and governance) across sectors (agriculture, environment, industry, energy, domestic uses, etc). This approach must also involve a wide range of European stakeholders and allocate the necessary funds, knowledge, skills, to achieve this ambition.

Second, **we call for the nomination of an EU Vice-President in charge of the water dimension** to better tackle the challenges we face. The recent EU legislations put forward regarding strategic yet water intensive sectors such as semiconductors and hydrogen production - just to name a few - will add enormous pressure on water resources. Key sectors

of the economy tend to benefit from dedicated funds, but one essential aspect of their value chains remains forgotten: water. The reality, however, is that the shift to a net-zero economy simply cannot happen without it.

**The end goal of creating water-smart legislations is to achieve a fully functioning Water-Smart Society** in Europe. In concrete terms, it is a society in which *“the value of water is recognised and understood 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; and all relevant stakeholders are engaged in guaranteeing sustainable water governance”*.

This vision and method were **acknowledged in the UN World Water Development Report 2023 as a good practice**. It also confirms the European Parliament’s choice to support a water-smart approach both in the internal policies and external actions of the European Union.

**Finally, inaction is not an option.** Passiveness is expected to cost five times more than the required investment to tackle water risks for the industry.

**We must therefore lead by example and take our responsibility. Today, we invite you to join us in tackling this crucial issue by championing the development of an ambitious EU Blue Deal for the next European Commission.**

Only together, we can ensure the sustainable use of water resources for our citizens, our environment and our economy.

Yours sincerely,

**Pernille Weiss**

Chair of the MEP Water Group  
Member of the European Parliament



**Pietro de Lotto**

President of the Consultative Commission on  
Industrial Change and Coordinator on EU Blue Deal  
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)



List of signatories from the European Parliament:

**Maria Spyra**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Greece

**Tudor Ciuhodaru**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Romania

**Ivan Štefanec**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Slovakia

**Adam Jarubas**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Poland

**Cyrus Engerer**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Malta

**Dan-Stefan Motreanu**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Romania

**Michal Wiezik**

Member of the European Parliament  
Renew, Slovakia

**Maria da Graça Carvalho**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Portugal

**Liudas Mažylis**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Lithuania

**Stelios Kympouropoulos**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Greece

**Anja Haga**

Member of the European Parliament  
NI, Netherlands

**Peter Pollak**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Slovakia

**Christian Ehler**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Germany

**Maria Angela Danzi**

Member of the European Parliament  
NI, Italy

**Lukas Mandl**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Austria

**Grace O'Sullivan**

Member of the European Parliament  
Greens/EFA, Ireland

**Karen Melchior**

Member of the European Parliament  
Renew, Denmark

**Klára Dobrev**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Hungary

**Csaba Molnár**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Hungary

**Sándor Rónai**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Hungary

**Attila Ara-Kovács**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Hungary

**Ljudmila Novak**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Slovenia

**Ivo Hristov**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Bulgaria

**Tiziana Beghin**

Member of the European Parliament  
NI, Italy

**Cindy Franssen**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Belgium

**Esther de Lange**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Netherlands

**Tom Vandenkendelaere**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Belgium

**Matteo Adinolfi**

Member of the European Parliament  
ID, Italy

**Elżbieta Łukacijewska**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Poland

**Niels Fuglsang**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Denmark

**Erik Poulsen**

Member of the European Parliament  
Renew, Denmark

**Asger Christensen**

Member of the European Parliament  
Renew, Denmark

**Morten Petersen**

Member of the European Parliament  
Renew, Denmark

**Jan Olbrycht**

Member of the European Parliament  
EPP, Poland

**Lukasz Kohut**

Member of the European Parliament  
S&D, Poland