



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  
ENVIRONMENT  
Directorate C –Zero Pollution, Water Resilience & Green Urban Transition  
ENV.C.2 –Marine Environment & Clean Water Services

Brussels  
ENV.C.2/BL

*To the Members of the recast Drinking Water Directive Expert Group*

**Sent by email only**

**Subject: Support to Member States for their communication to the Commission under Article 4(3) of the recast Drinking Water Directive – use of the water leakage level template**

Dear member of the Drinking Water Expert Group,

In line with Article 4(3) of the recast Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184, (hereafter ‘the Directive’) Member States shall ensure that an assessment of water leakage levels within their territory and of the potential for improvements in water leakage reduction is carried out using the infrastructural leakage index (ILI) rating method or another appropriate method. That assessment shall take into account relevant public health, environmental, technical and economic aspects and cover at least water suppliers supplying at least 10 000 m<sup>3</sup> per day or serving at least 50 000 people. The results of this assessment shall be communicated to the Commission by 12 January 2026.

At the request of the members of the Drinking Water Expert Group, a “water leakage level” subgroup was established end of 2024 to further develop members’ preferred water leakage indicator. This subgroup developed a water leakage level (WLL) template which was presented at the expert group on 12 June 2025. Following this meeting, a majority of Member States informed the Commission services that they would use this template for their communication to the Commission under Article 4(3) of the Directive.

To support Member States in their communication to the Commission and to harmonise the assessment results, I would recommend that Member States’ competent authorities use this template. In annex you can find the template presented at the expert group meeting of 12 June 2025, which is also available on the Commission’s [DWEG CIRCABC platform](#).

I am aware that some Member States expressed some doubts on the interpretation of some data requested in this template. To prevent misinterpretation of data provided, if necessary, my colleagues can organise subsequent bilateral meetings with expert group members.

By 2028, the Commission will adopt a delegated act setting out a threshold above which Member States shall present an action plan. This delegated act will be defined using the

Member States' assessments and the Union average leakage rate determined on the basis of those assessments. The Commission will consult the expert group before adopting the delegated act.

In line with Article 4(3) of the Directive, within two years of the adoption of this delegated act, Member States having a leakage rate exceeding the threshold set out in the delegated act must present an action plan to the Commission laying down a set of measures to be taken in order to reduce their leakage rate.

Should you would have any questions about the use or interpretation of the data requested in the template, please contact us via the functional mailbox [ENV-DRINKING-WATER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ENV-DRINKING-WATER@ec.europa.eu).

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

(e-signed)  
Paula DUARTE GASPAR  
Head of Unit

Annex: Water leakage level template (.xls format)

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