



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL
ENVIRONMENT
Directorate ENV.C, Zero Pollution
Unit ENV.C.1, Sustainable Freshwater Management

Brussels

DG ENV.C1/OK

To the Members of the Expert Group on
the Bathing Water Directive
representing Member States

cc MS focal points of the SCG

Subject : Follow-up Questionnaire on the Implementation of the Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)

As announced during the 12th Bathing Water Expert Group Meeting (18 September 2025), the European Commission is gathering Member States' experiences on the implementation of the Bathing Water Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC). This follows up on the evaluation published last year and the follow-up discussions about current challenges and opportunities in light of climate change, digital innovation, and evolving public health needs.

The 2025 European Environment Agency (EEA) Annual Bathing Water Report and the Expert Group discussions highlighted key areas where Member States face practical challenges or opportunities for improvement, such as:

- **Clarifying Definitions**, such as what constitutes a "large number of bathers" and how to adapt bathing season durations in a changing climate.
- **Enhancing monitoring and reporting**, particularly experience with sampling frequencies, analytical methods and supplementary parameters (e.g. cyanobacteria, chemical risk or other microbial indicators);
- **Management of short-term pollution events**.
- **Enhancing the use of digital means to gather and communicate information**, including real-time monitoring, predictive modelling, and integration with broader EU water policies like the Water Resilience Strategy.

As a follow-up to the Expert Group Meeting, we have prepared a questionnaire to gather your valuable insights and experiences on these themes. Your responses will help identify common challenges, best practices, and potential areas for further support.

Please fill in the questionnaire using the following link: [Questionnaire EU Survey BWD](#)

In order to ensure that the Commission receives a coherent and representative picture of national implementation, **we expect each Member State to provide a single, consolidated reply reflecting the agreed national position.**

We kindly ask you to provide feedback on the attached questionnaire by 9 September 2026. The goal is to capture your practical experiences, challenges, and suggestions with the view of enhancing implementation.

If you have any questions regarding the preparation of this meeting, please do not hesitate to contact us via ENV-BATHING-WATER@ec.europa.eu.

Yours faithfully,

(e-signed)
Claudia Olazabal
Head of Unit