| Logo of the European Commission, 12 yellow stars on a blue background arranged in a circle and framed by two light grey graphic elements representing the Berlaymont building, which is the headquarter of the European Commission. | EUROPEAN COMMISSION  DIRECTORATE-GENERAL  ENVIRONMENT  Zero Pollution  **Marine Environment & Clean Water Services** |

***Informal Commission Expert Subgroup on Water Leakage Levels***

Terms of reference

# Background

The Recast Drinking Water Directive[[1]](#footnote-1) (DWD) emphasizes the importance of reducing water leakage as a key measure to ensure sustainability and water security. Article 4§3 specifically calls for Member States to take measures that encourage the efficient use of water resources through leakage reduction.

The Subgroup on Water Leakage Levels (SG-WLL) is established under the Commission Expert Group on the Implementation of the Drinking Water Directive (EU) 2020/2184[[2]](#footnote-2) (DWEG) to assist Member States and the Commission in meeting the requirements set out in paragraph 3 of Article 4 ,by facilitating the exchange of knowledge, best practices, and technical solutions aimed at assessing and improving water leakage levels.

The subgroup shall operate in compliance with the Commission’s horizontal rules on expert groups and shall report to the DWEG. It shall be dissolved as soon as its mandate is fulfilled.

# Subject matter

The Subgroup of Experts on Water Leakage Levels is set up.

# Tasks

The subgroup’s tasks shall be:

* 1. To establish cooperation/coordination with Member States and stakeholders on questions relating to the implementation of the provisions related to water leakage of the DWD.
  2. To bring about an exchange of experience and good practice on the assessment of water leakage levels and potential for improvements to reduce water leakage levels among Member States,
  3. To determine comparable drinking water leakage level assessment methods before the date of 30 June 2025 which should, to the extent possible, allow a harmonised and consistent communication to the Commission of the results of the assessment of drinking water leakage levels within Member States’ territory.
  4. To support DG Environment in the preparation of the delegated act that the Commission shall adopt by 12 January 2028 as provided for in paragraph 3 of Article 4 of the recast DWD.

# Membership

The subgroup shall be composed of maximum 20 members

Members shall be Member States' authorities representatives.

Member States' authorities shall nominate a representative and shall be responsible for ensuring that their representative provide a high level of expertise.

# Chair

The group shall be chaired by a representative of …

# Operation

The group shall act at the request of its Chair with the agreement of DG ENV, in compliance with the Commission’s horizontal rules on expert groups[[3]](#footnote-3).

Meetings of the group shall, in principle, be held on Commission premises or virtually, depending on the circumstances.

DG ENV shall provide secretarial services. Commission officials from other departments with an interest in the proceedings may attend meetings of the subgroup.

In agreement with DG ENV, the group may, by simple majority of its members, decide that deliberations shall be public.

Minutes on the discussion on each point on the meetings’ agenda and on the opinions delivered by the group shall be meaningful and complete. Minutes shall be drafted by the secretariat under the responsibility of the Chair.

As far as possible, the group shall adopt its opinions, recommendations or reports by consensus. In the event of a vote, the outcome of the vote shall be decided by simple majority of the members. Members who have voted against or abstained shall have the right to have a document summarising the reasons for their position annexed to the opinions, recommendations or reports.

# Invited experts

DG ENV may invite experts with specific expertise with respect to a subject matter on the agenda to take part in the work of the group or sub-groups on an *ad hoc* basis.

# Rules of procedure

The subgroup shall operate in compliance with the expert group’s rules of procedure.

# Transparency

1. The subgroup shall be registered in the Register of Commission expert groups and other similar entities (‘the Register of expert groups’).

2. All relevant documents, including the agendas, the minutes and the participants’ submissions, shall be made available via a link from the Register to a dedicated website, where this information can be found. Access to dedicated websites shall not be submitted to user registration or any other restriction. In particular, DG ENV shall publish the agenda and other relevant background documents in due time ahead of the meeting, followed by timely publication of minutes. Exceptions to publication shall only be possible where it is deemed that disclosure of a document would undermine the protection of a public or private interest as defined in Article 4 of Regulation (EC) N° 1049/2001[[4]](#footnote-4).

# Meeting expenses

1. Participants in the activities of the subgroup shall not be remunerated for the services they offer.

2. Travel and subsistence expenses incurred by participants in the activities of the subgroup shall not be reimbursed by the Commission.

Done in Brussels on [date].

1. [Directive (EU) 2020/2184](http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2020/2184/oj) on the quality of water intended for human consumption, *OJ L435, 23.12.2020, p.1-62.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [E03030](https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?lang=en&groupID=3030) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. C(2016) 3301, Article 13.1. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. These exceptions are intended to protect public security, military affairs, international relations, financial, monetary or economic policy, privacy and integrity of the individual, commercial interests, court proceedings and legal advice, inspections/investigations/audits and the institution's decision-making process. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)