



# Revision of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive



## UWWTD - Evaluation

### The Directive

**Collection**

**Treatment**

**Monitoring &  
Reporting**

### Lessons learnt

Effective tool –  
Tangible impacts

Simple and  
targeted instrument

Carrot and stick

Benefits >>> costs

### Room for improvement

Remaining pollution

Eutrophication

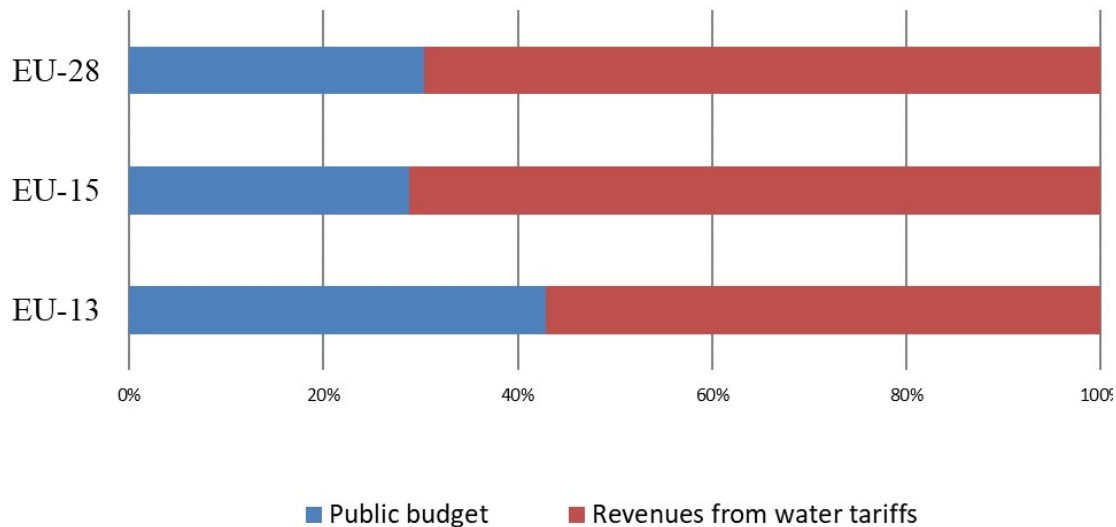
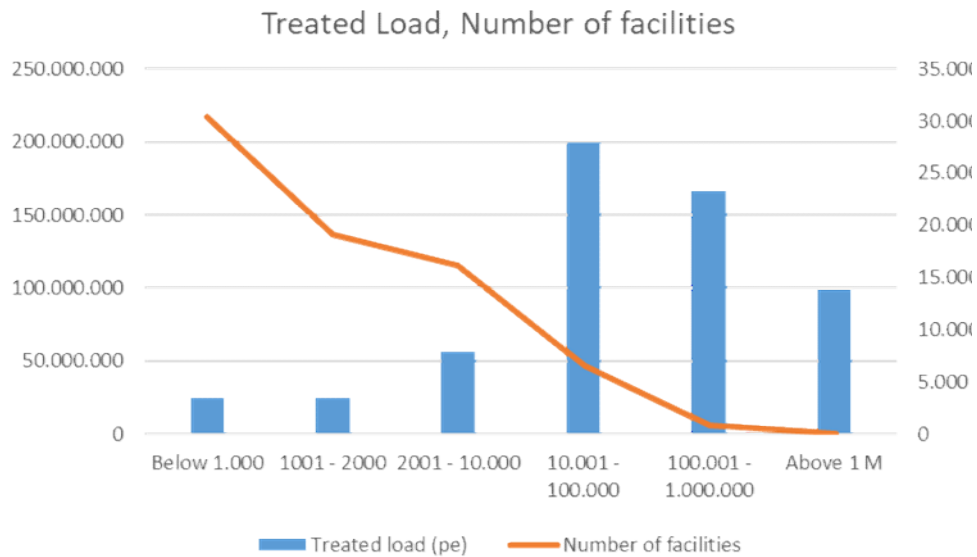
Energy use, sludge  
management

Governance –  
transparency/reporting

Coherence with other  
legislation

# EU wastewater sector

**Wastewater = public competence + “captive market”  
Mainly reactive to legal requirements**



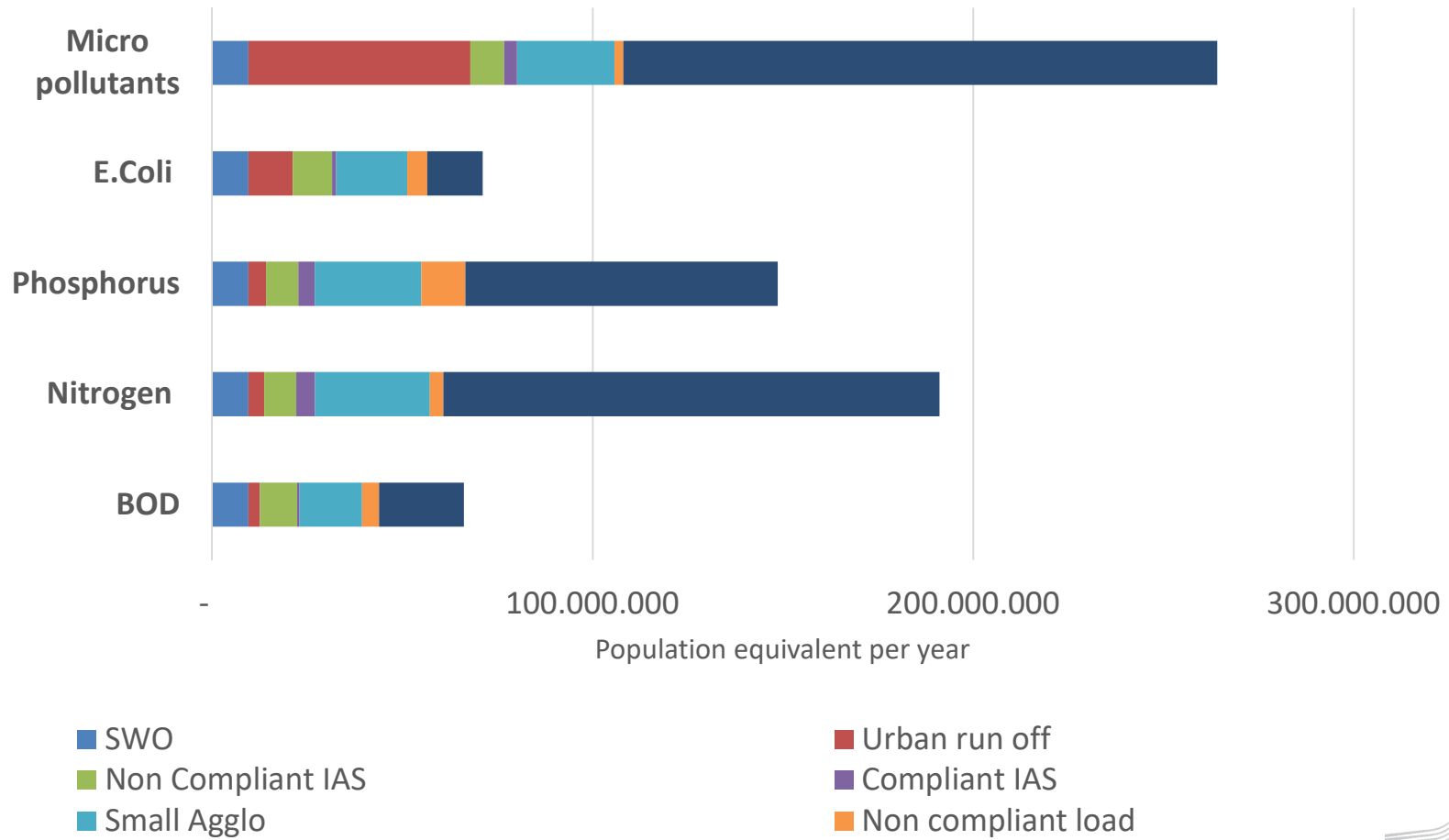
**81% of the pollution enters facilities from agglos  
> 10.000 inhabitants  
46% > 100.000 inh.**

**Costs covered by mix of water tariffs (70%) and  
public budgets (30%)**

Source: European Commission, 2022, [UWWTD IA](#)

Source: OECD, 2020, [Financing Water Supply, Sanitation and Flood Protection](#)

# Remaining loads



Source: JRC 2022

## Towards the preferred option

Best practices,  
Stakeholders,  
other EU laws

Possible  
Options IA -  
levels of  
ambition

Costs &  
Benefits or  
Cost  
effectiveness

Contribution to  
Green Deal,  
Enforceability  
&  
Administrative  
burden

**Preferred  
Option =  
legal  
proposal**

# What is new? - Water Quality

## Rain waters (Art 5/Annex 5)

Integrated management

Indicative objective

Hierarchy of actions

## Smaller cities (Art. 3 and 4)

From 2.000 to 1.000 inhabitants

EU standards + more control for small individual treatment plants

## Nutrients (Art. 7)

Reinforced standards for N/P removal

Applied in more areas

And for all facilities above 100.000 pe

## Micropollutants (Art. 8)

New emission standards

### Risk based approach

- Large aggro / facilities first
- Smaller (above 10.000 pe)- only where there is a risk

# What is new? - Energy & Climate, Circular Economy



## ENERGY, CLIMATE

- Energy Audits > 10.000 p.e. (Art. 11)
- Energy neutrality by 2040
- Monitoring GHG emissions

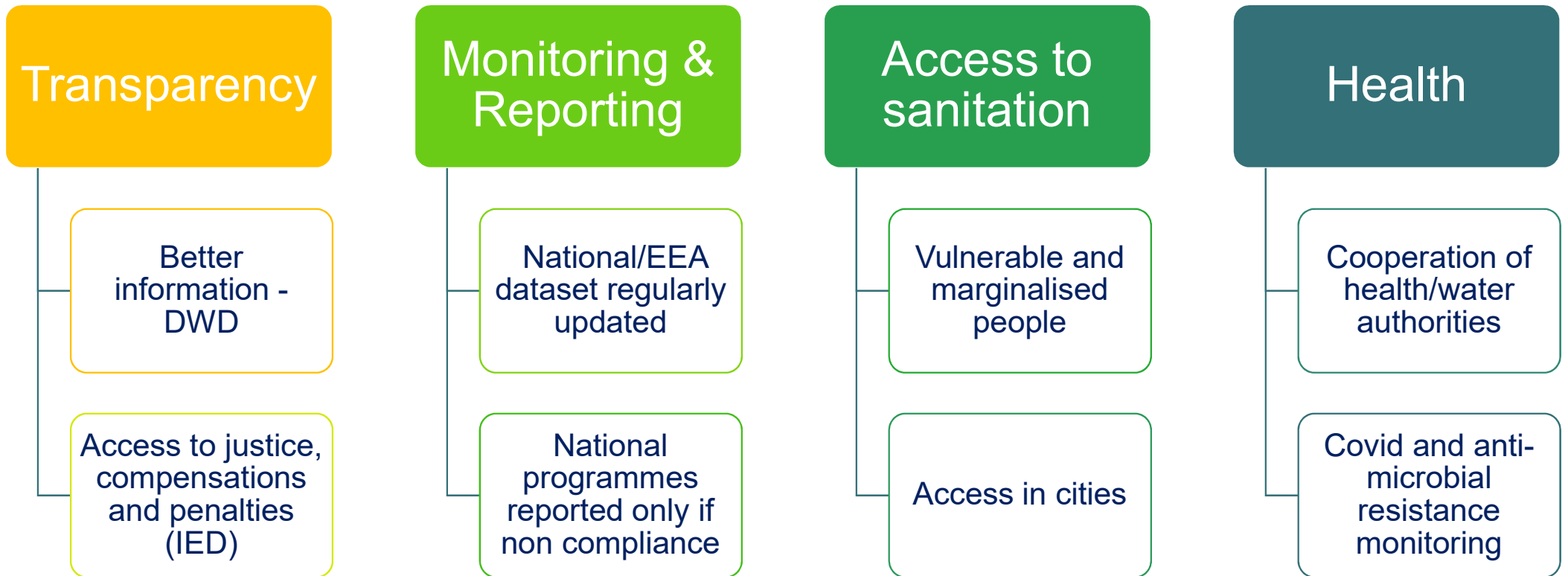


## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Track at source (Art. 14)
- Systematically consider water re-use (Art. 15)
- Sludge with waste hierarchy + DA on recycling re-use for N/P (Art. 20)

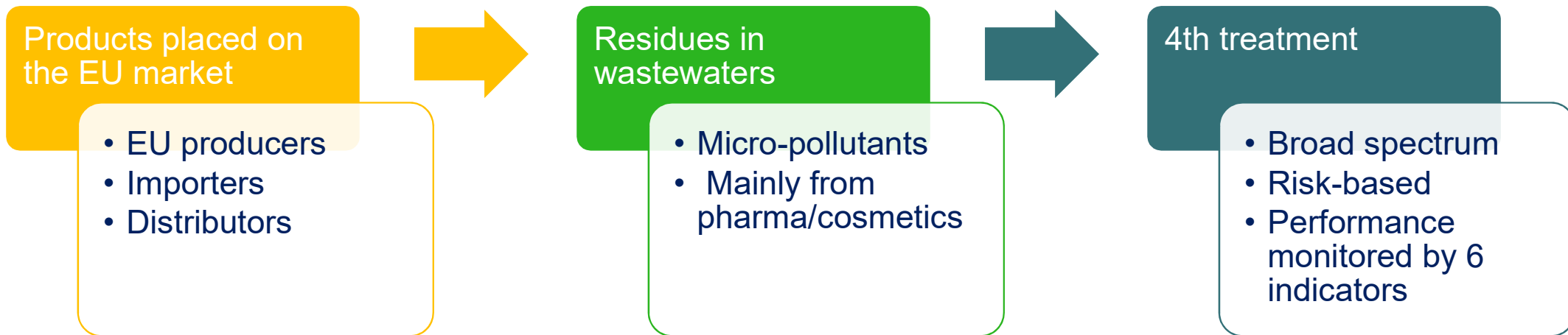
DA = Delegated Act

# What is new? - Governance





# Micro-pollutants and Producer responsibility

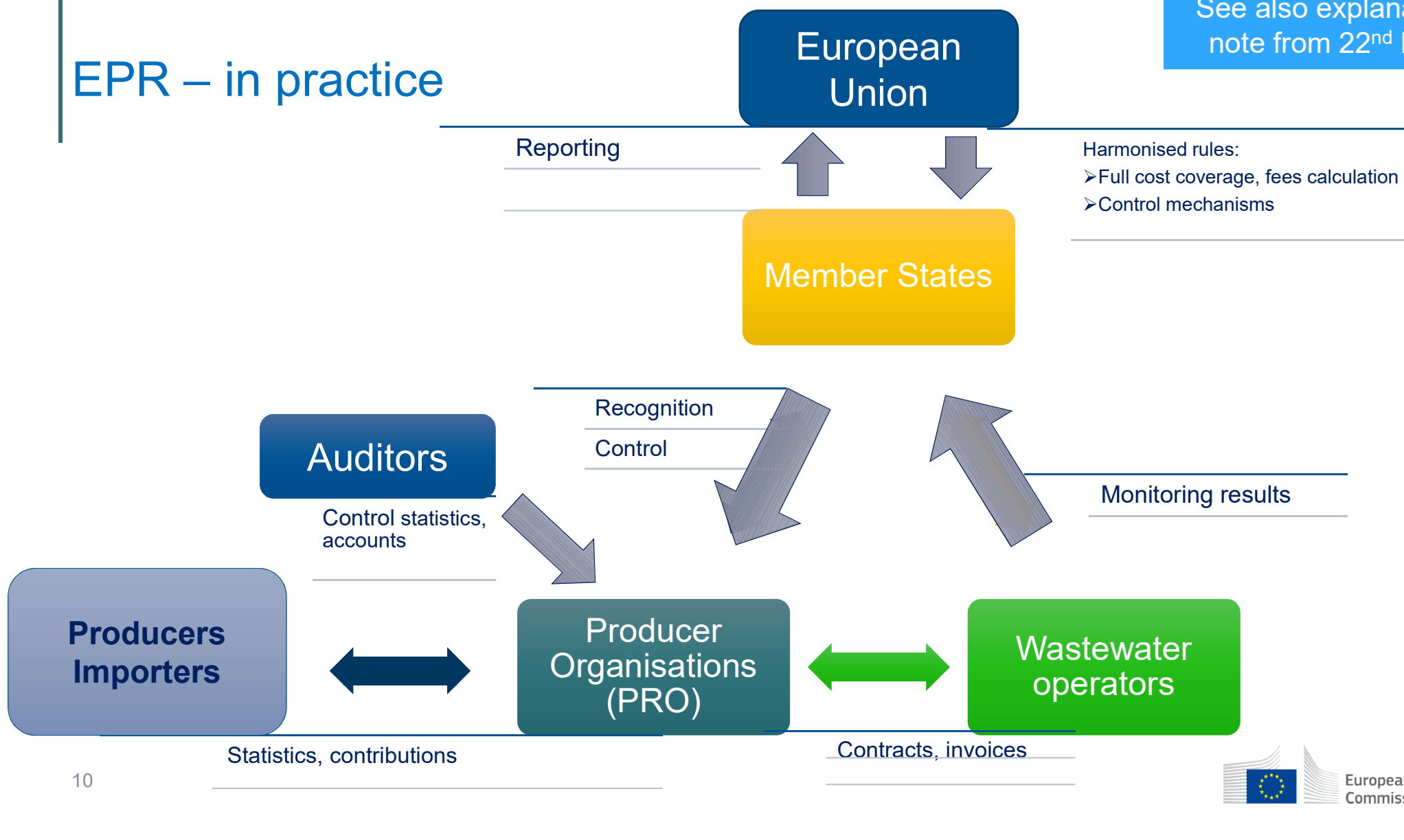


## Exonerations:

- Below 2T - based on REACH
- If no micro-pollutants in urban wastewater

See also explanatory note from 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec

# EPR – in practice

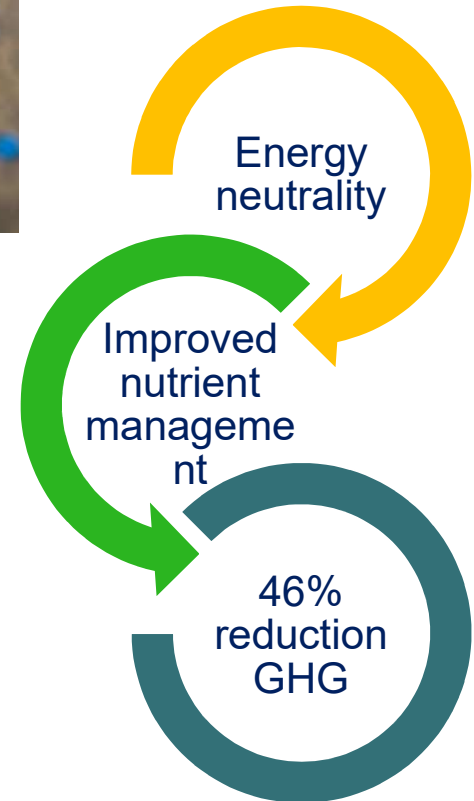
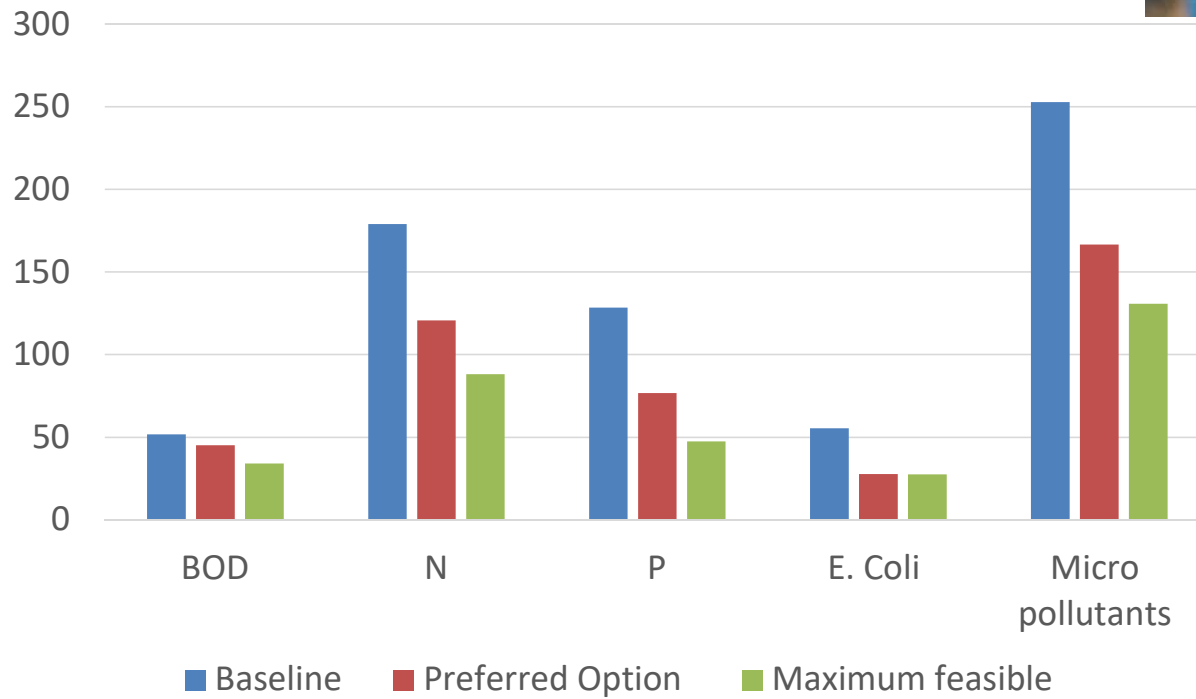


# Impacts



**- 9 %  
micro  
plastics**

Pollution reduction (million pe)

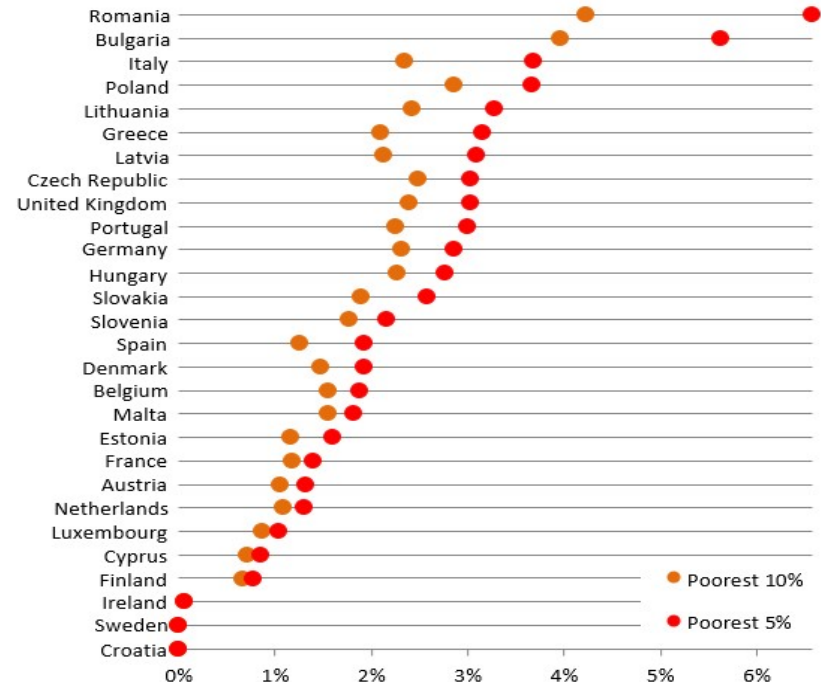


# Cost coverage, affordability

**Now:** 70% water tariffs and 30% public budget  
**Proposal:** 3 sources of financing

Total Costs: EUR 3,8 billion/year in 2040

Total monetized benefits: EUR 6,6 bn/year in 2040



**Water tariffs**  
 (EUR 1,8 bn/year by 2040)

- Average increase **2,3%** in **2040**
- **Affordability not endangered**

**Public Budget -**  
 (EUR 0,8 bn/year by 2040)

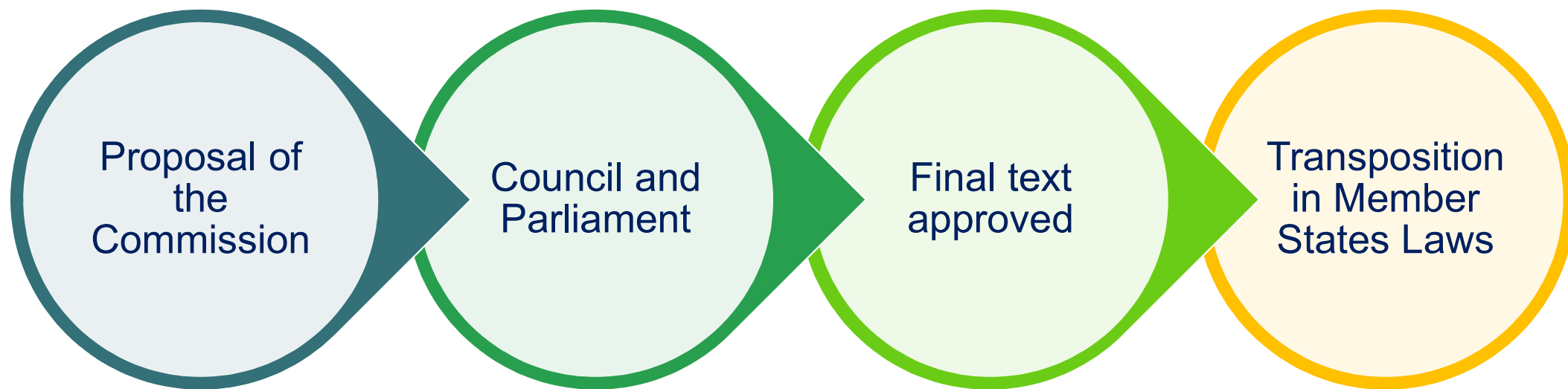
- EU funds for water: EUR 2 bn/year
- Average public budget for water: EUR 30 bn/year

**Producer responsibility (EUR 1,2 bn/year by 2040)**

- 0,5 to 0,9% max reduction of profit margins
- Or 0,6% max of annual expenses (EUR 2,7 year/person max)

Share of water expenditures in household disposable income (2011-2015 average) Source: OECD based on Eurostat

## Next steps



Thank you for your attention