

BUILDING WATER RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF FLOODS AND DROUGHTS

**Regional policy approaches to increase the
resilience to droughts**

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STRATEGIC APPROACH TO WATER RESILIENCE

1. Match Availability to Demand

- - Supplement shortages with **alternative resources** (e.g., regenerated water, desalination).

1. Storage Solutions

- - Invest in storage infrastructure to manage mixed water sources and ensure availability during scarcity.

1. Maximize Efficiency

- - Optimize water use across sectors (agriculture, urban, industrial) through innovation and best practices.

WATER RESILIENCE STRATEGIES FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

(Based on the CPRM Intermediterranean Commission's Joint Position, July 3, 2024)

The Mediterranean Regions emphasize **Water resilience** as critical to addressing scarcity, climate change, and desertification. A unified approach was outlined to align EU policies with regional needs, focusing on **efficiency, sustainability, and governance.**

KEY PRIORITIES (1/2)

1. **Inclusive Policy-Making** - Demand systematic inclusion of Mediterranean regional authorities' expertise in EU regulations on water management and desertification.
2. **Legislative Reforms-**
 - Future EU/Mediterranean water laws must balance supply-demand through: -
 - Efficiency, savings, modernization, sector-specific planning, and Best Available Techniques (BAT).
3. **Integrated Governance –**
 - Develop **territorial water governance systems** beyond individual river basins. –
 - Require **national hydrological plans** (complementing river basin/district plans) under the Water Framework Directive.

KEY PRIORITIES (2/2)

4. Infrastructure Investment

- - Prioritize EU funding (e.g., ERDF, Horizon Europe) for modernizing/expanding water infrastructure to enhance resilience.

5. Diversified Water Resources

- - Promote **integrated management** of conventional (e.g., rivers) and non-conventional sources (e.g., reclaimed water, desalination).
- - Simplify regulations for **reused water** (especially in agriculture) while ensuring safety/quality.

6. Efficiency & Innovation

- - Minimize water waste via advanced technologies (e.g., sustainable treatment, desalination).
- - Restore/protect aquatic ecosystems to bolster climate resilience.

FOCUS AREAS FOR ACTION // CALLS TO ACTION

- **Drought Mitigation:**
Address immediate impacts of water scarcity.
- **Water Management**
Enhance systems for sustainable allocation and usage.
- **EU/Member States:** Prioritize funding for water infrastructure, innovation, and ecosystem restoration.
- **Policy Alignment:** Integrate territorial perspectives into EU frameworks and streamline regulations for non-conventional water use



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