



# **Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse**

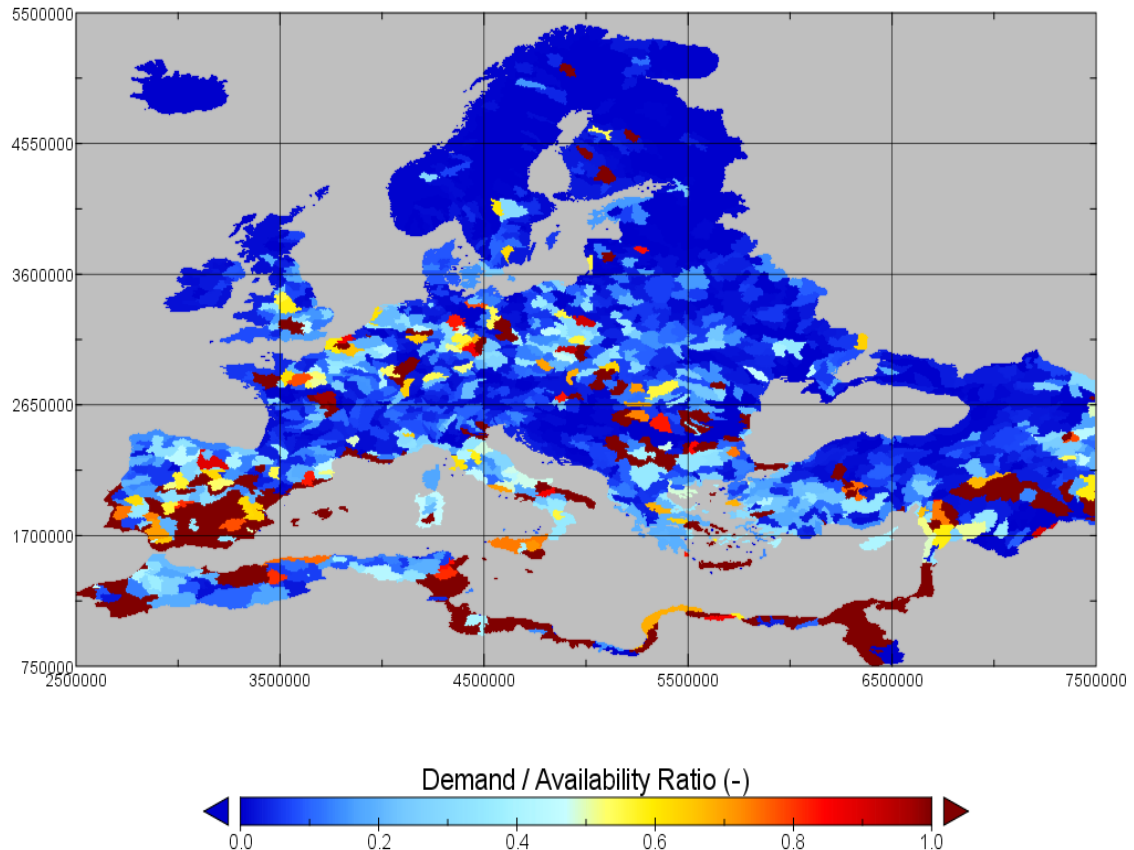
**EP Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development**

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**European Commission, DG ENV  
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# Water scarcity and droughts

- ❑ Water stress **today**: **1/3 of the EU territory** all year round (not just southern Europe)
- ❑ Frequency & intensity of droughts on the rise due to climate change
- ❑ Cost of water shortages 1976-2006 **€100 billion €** (EC, 2012)



# Summer 2018



# Policy background

- ❑ **Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources (2012)** – identified the untapped potential of water reuse
  
- ❑ **Sustainable Development Goal 6 (2015)** - Ensure access to water and sanitation for all – includes the target of “substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally”



# Policy background

- ❑ **Circular Economy Action Plan (2015)** – actions to facilitate water reuse, including a legislative proposal on minimum requirements for reused water, e.g. for irrigation and groundwater recharge”



# Potential of water reuse in the EU

- ❑ **In 2015** - 1,1 billion m<sup>3</sup>/year of water reused
- ❑ **In 2025** - around **6 billion m<sup>3</sup>/year** of water reused

# Water reuse – Impact Assessment

- Outcome of Policy Options assessment
  - Agricultural irrigation: **"fit-for-purpose" legal instrument**
  - Aquifer recharge: EU-level legal instrument = not proportionate
  
- Costs & Benefits:
  - estimated investments  $\leq$  EUR 700 M for treating over 6,6 bn m<sup>3</sup> water /year at costs  $\leq$  EUR 0,5/m<sup>3</sup>
  - estimated 5% - 10% reduction in water scarcity

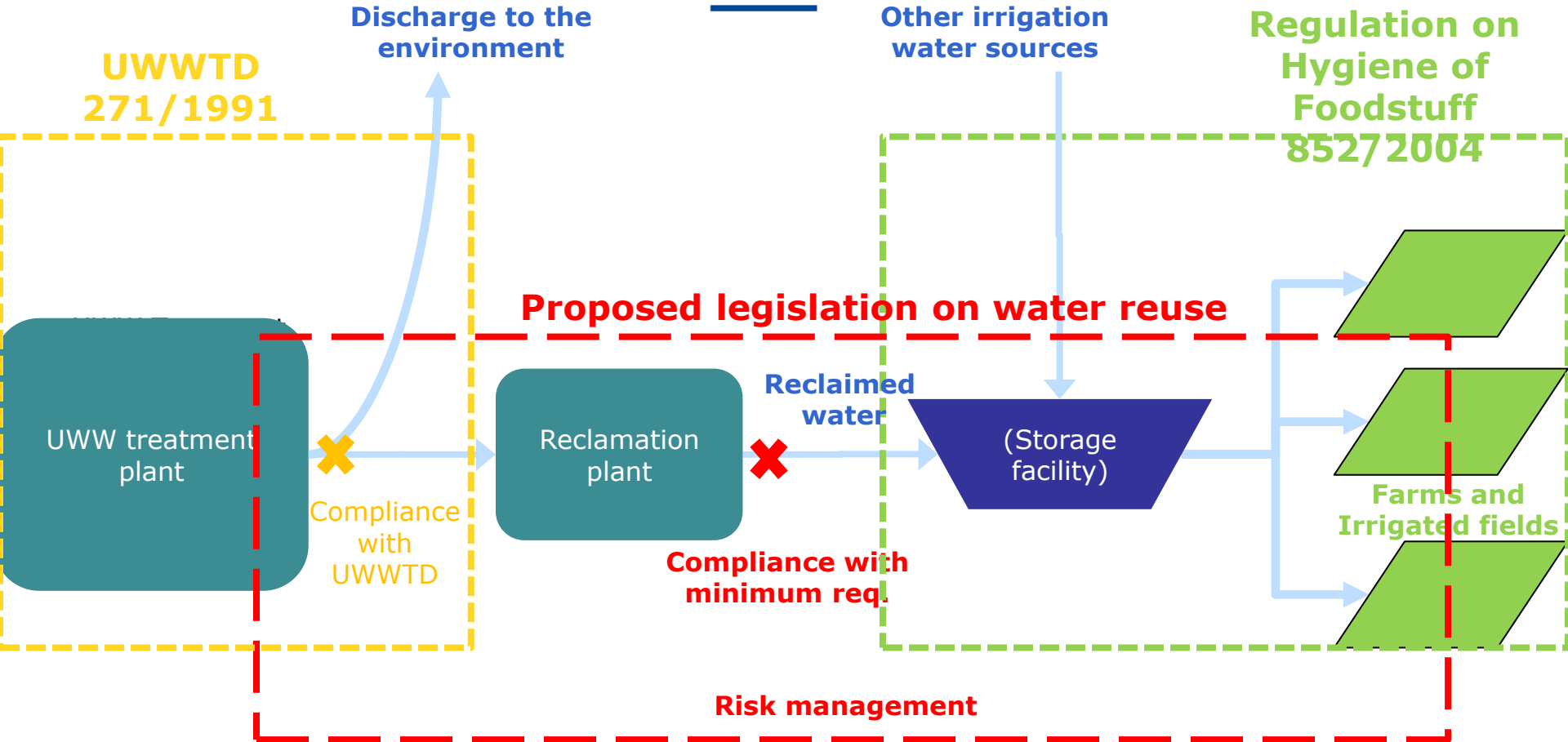
# PROPOSAL FOR A REGULATION







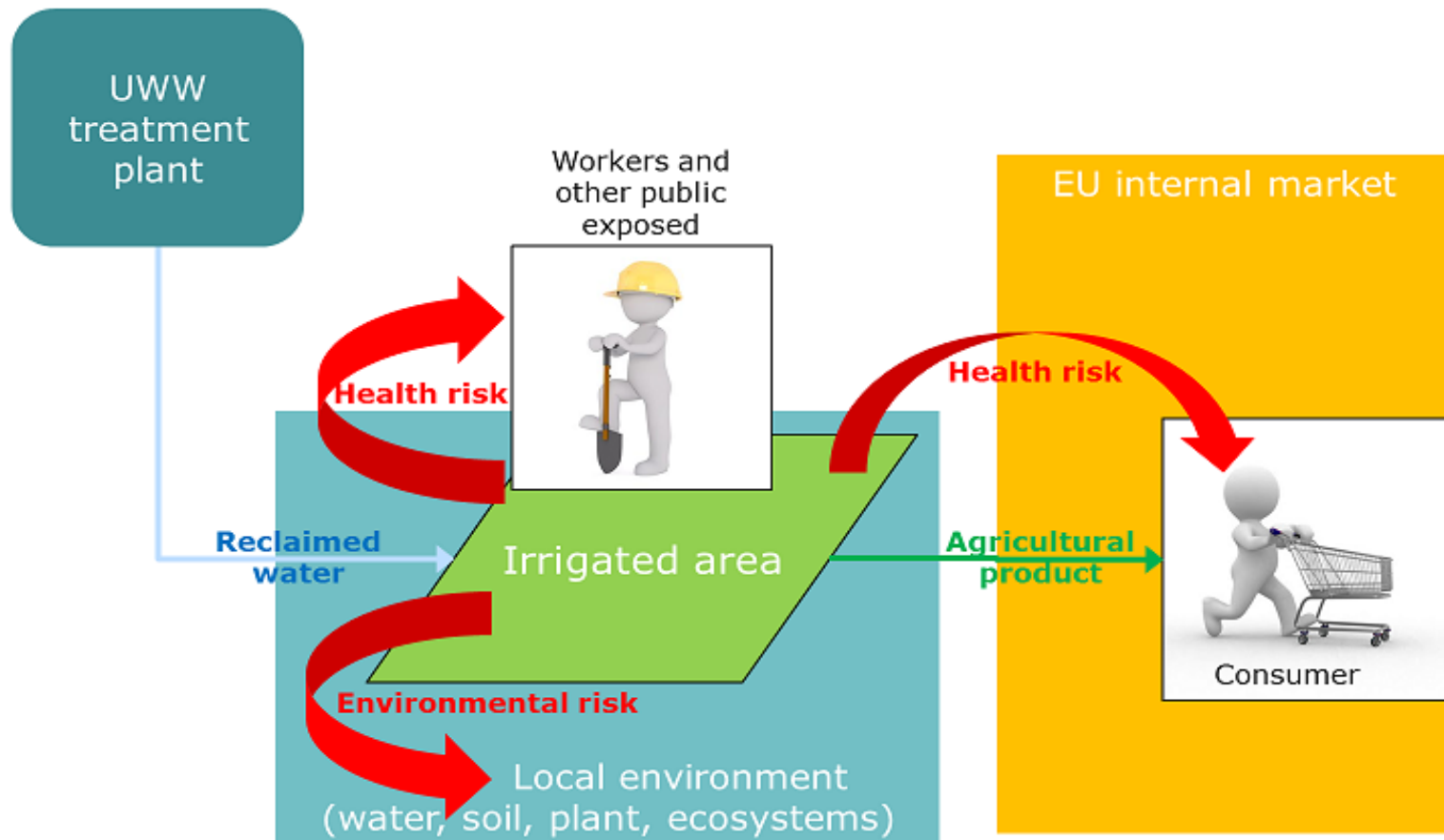
European Commission



## Water reuse – scope of different EU legal instruments

# Safety first!

## Environment and Health risk



# Proposal for Regulation on water reuse

Introducing **minimum requirements for reuse** in agricultural irrigation:

- 1) Parametric values for quality of reclaimed water & monitoring requirements (Annex I) – addressing HEALTH risks**
- 2) Key risk management tasks (Annex II) – addressing ENVIRONMENTAL risks & potential additional health risks**

# Proposal for Regulation on water reuse

## Risk management plan

- ❑ Prepared by **operator** in cooperation with **the end user(s)** and other relevant parties
- ❑ Based on the **Key risk management tasks (Annex II)**
- ❑ Part of an application for a permit

# Proposal for Regulation on water reuse

## Permitting process

- ❑ Production and supply of reclaimed water **only with a permit** granted by the competent authority
- ❑ Compliance with:
  - existing EU legislation;
  - **minimum requirements (Annex I)**; and
  - **additional requirements** based on the application of key risk management tasks (**Annex II**)

# Annex I

## □ Sets out:

- parametric values for quality of reclaimed water
- monitoring requirements (Annex I) –

## □ Intends to address health risks

## □ Parameters set out:

- per class of reclaimed water, per crop category and irrigation method

## □ Minimum monitoring frequencies set:

- per parameter and per class of water

## Annex II

- ❑ Sets out the key risk management principles to be followed when preparing a risk management plan
- ❑ Intend to address environmental risks and potential additional health risk
- ❑ Further technical specifications to be developed in conjunction with experts to further guide the risk assessment process



**Thank you for your attention!**

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/reuse.htm>