



EU Policies targeting pollution in the marine and water systems

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ERRIN BLUE ECONOMY WG

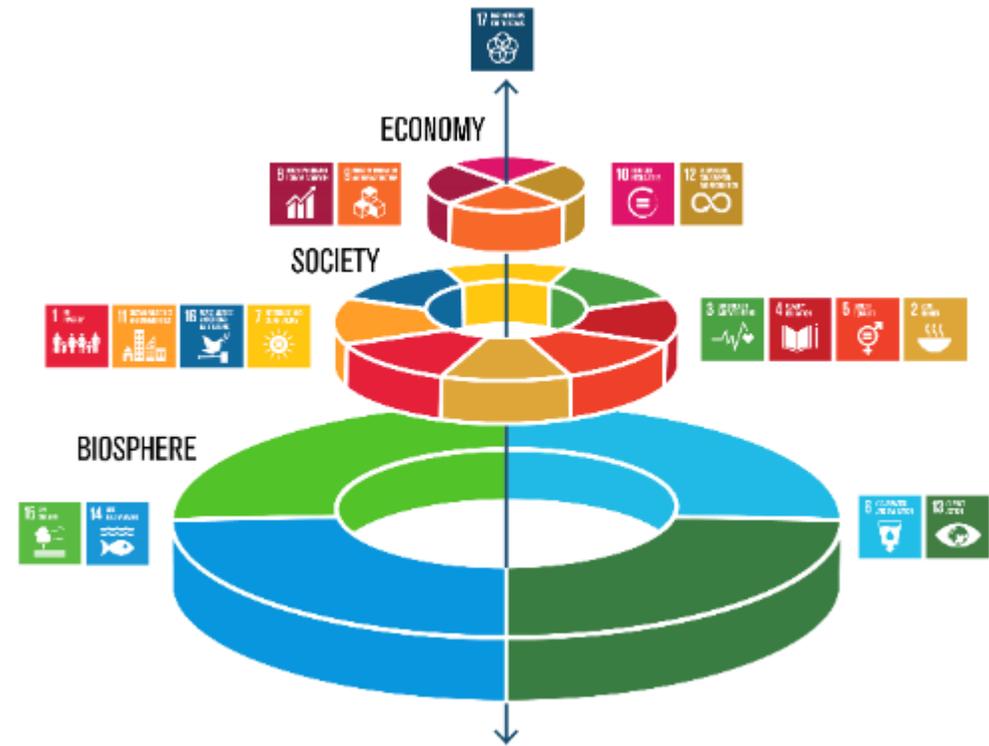
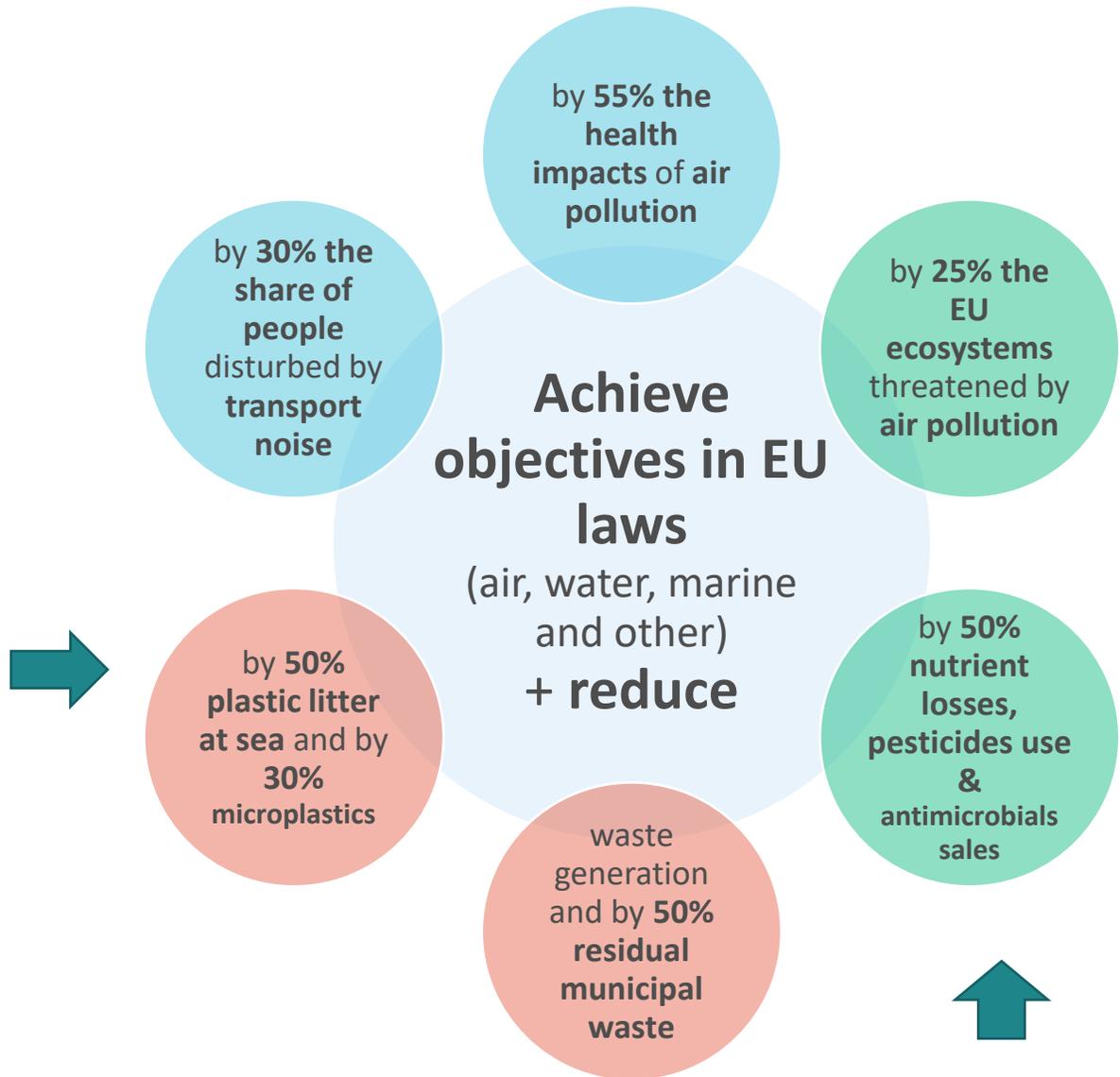
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The zero pollution vision for 2050

“Air, water and soil pollution is reduced to **levels no longer considered harmful to health and natural ecosystems** and that **respect the boundaries our planet can cope with,** thus creating a toxic-free environment.”

2030 targets complementing SDGs



Graphics by Jerker Lokrantz/Azote



Zero Pollution - key legislative actions

ZPAP actions – published proposals

- Revision of the **Industrial Emissions Directive** and **Industrial Emissions Register Regulation** (April 2022)
- Sustainable Product Initiative – Revision of **Ecodesign Directive** (April 2022)
- Revision of the **Environmental Crime Directive** (Dec 2021)
- **Fit455 package** and **RePowerEU packages** (2021/2022) (e.g. **Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency Directives**)

Other relevant Green Deal actions – published proposals

- New **Nature Restoration Law** (June 2022)
- Revision of the **Sustainable Use of Pesticides Regulation** (June 2022)
- Revision of the **Waste Shipment Regulation** (Nov 2021)
- Revision of the **POPs Regulation** (Oct 2021)

ZPAP actions – under preparation in 2022

- Revision of **Ambient Air Quality Directive**
- **Revision of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**
- Revision of **water pollutants list** (Environmental Quality Standards and Groundwater Directives)
- New emission limit values for motor vehicles (**EURO7**)
- Revision of the **Mercury Regulation**

ZPAP legislative actions 2023

- **Evaluation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive**
- Evaluation of the **Bathing Water Directive**
- Evaluation of the **Environmental Liability Directive**
- **Implementation Report of Environmental Noise Directive**





Clean Water Services

[Water - Environment - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

State of Play recast DWD



- Adoption by Council and European Parliament – 16 December 2020
- Publication in the Official Journal (OJ)
<http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2020/2184/oj> – 23 December 2020
- Entry into force 20 days after publication in OJ – 12 January 2021
- Member States have 2 years to duly comply – **12 January 2023**

What's new?

2. Introduction of 'risk-based approach' (RBA)

covering whole supply chain



1. **Updated** existing safety standards + **watch list** mechanism



3. **Provisions on substances/materials** in contact with DW (Article 11 of DWD)

4. Access to water

obligation for MS to improve or maintain access to safe drinking water for all, in particular to vulnerable and marginalised groups

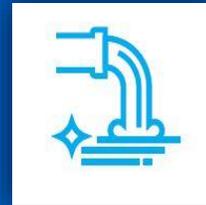
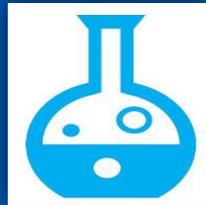


5. Increased transparency

for consumers on water suppliers' efficiency and measures for their improvement → leakages



Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive



[Water - Environment - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

Revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

Remaining pollution from urban sources

Urban run-off, stormwater

Individual Appropriate Systems

Small agglomerations

Nitrogen & Phosphorus

Micro-pollutants

New challenges

GHG emissions

Energy use

Sludge

Health

Modernisation and Governance

Transparency

Reporting

Affordability, producer responsibility

Access to sanitation

- Cluster of 60 projects, with 22 ongoing
- Projects funded by H2020, LIFE, EMFF, EIT Climate KIC





Marine Environment

[Water - Environment - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](http://europa.eu)

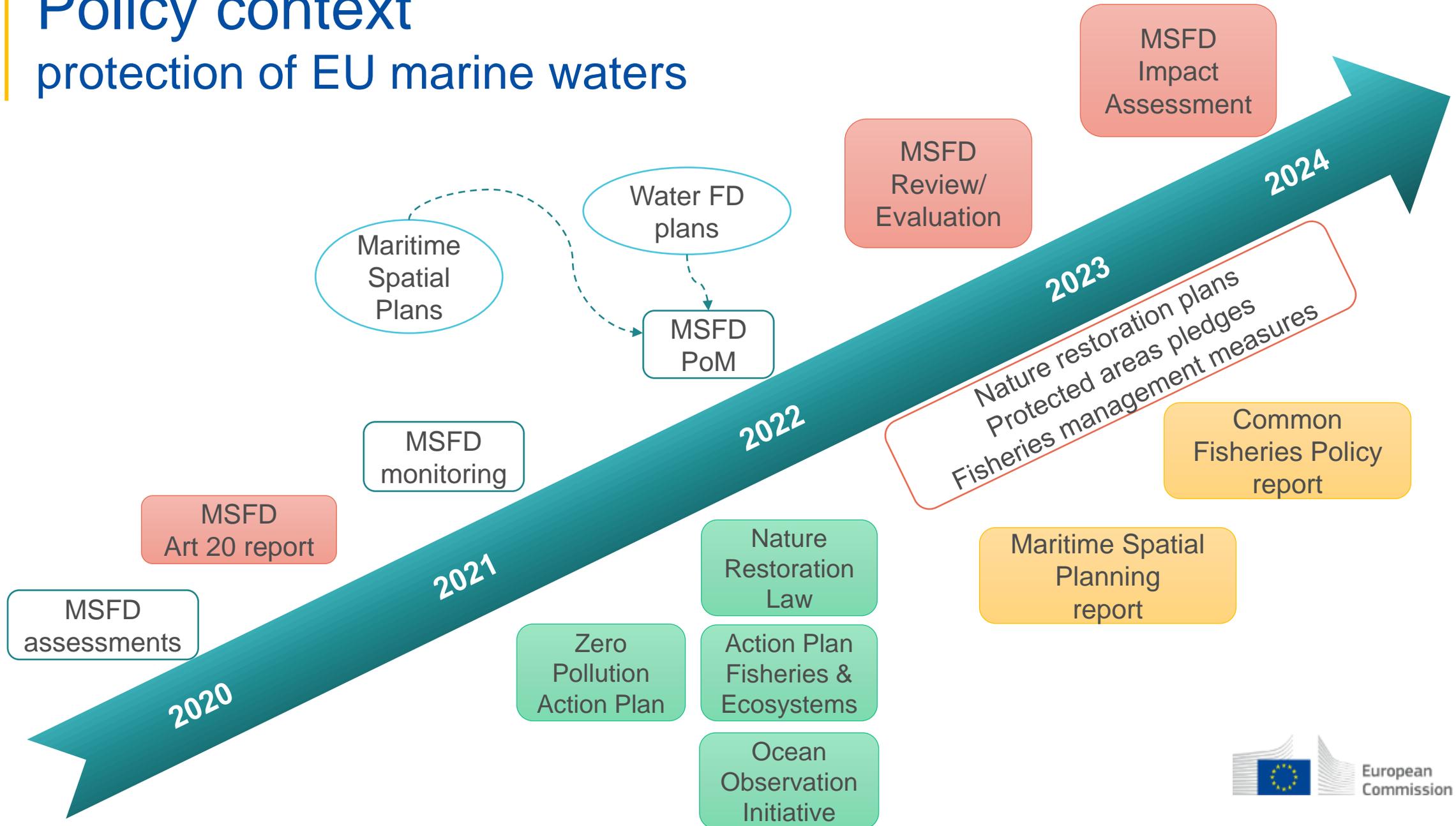


Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) Review

Evaluation and Impact Assessment
(state of play)

Policy context

protection of EU marine waters



Main outcomes from the evaluation study (1)

- **Effectiveness:**
 - Overall, **GES** not achieved (2020 ddl): ecosystems continue to decline, and pressures have not been eliminated; at descriptor level progress/achievements made but only for certain areas and descriptors.
 - **Marine strategies** have been developed, significant improvements in reporting between the 1st and 2nd cycle, CIS coordination, and large quantity on data generated on state of the marine environment; important gaps persist in GES determination/quantification, environmental target setting, PoMs and monitoring; regional cooperation/coordination has increased, but still disparities across marine regions
- **Efficiency:** Costs of implementing the Directive outweighed by the (potential) benefits from implementing marine strategies/achieving GES.

Main outcomes from the evaluation study (2)

- **Coherence:** gaps and overlaps with related environmental legislation; insufficient integration of MSFD principles and objectives in sectoral legislation (maritime, agriculture, energy); insufficient integration of climate change impacts
- **Relevance and EU added value** were confirmed (need for EU action in the area of marine protection), but shortcomings identified, such as insufficient integration of climate change impacts. Adherence of the proportionality and subsidiarity principles, but high degree of flexibility leads to low ambition.
- Regulatory / governance / information failures, falling in five main categories: 1. regulatory framework, 2. implementation & enforcement, 3. regional cooperation, 4. coherence, 5. data management.

The EU Zero pollution action plan (ZPAP) targets for marine litter reduction

“reduce by 50% plastic litter at sea and by 30% microplastics released into the environment”

About MACROPLASTICS:

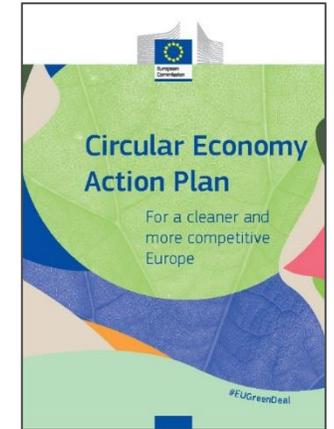
- Targets calculated on basis of Single Use Plastics Directive and planned microplastics measures; additional measures might be needed
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) will be essential for their delivery and monitoring – ie recently adopted Beach litter threshold value (20 items per 100M) + others in the making
- Regional sea conventions around Europe are adopting similar targets; close interaction, including through measures' coordination

Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)

About MICROPLASTICS:

*In addition to reducing plastic litter, CEAP addresses **microplastics** by:*

- *restricting **intentionally** added microplastics (with the European Chemicals Agency/REACH)*
- *developing labelling, standardisation, certification and regulatory measures on **unintentional release of microplastics**, including measures to increase the capture of microplastics at all relevant stages of products' lifecycle (Strategy for Plastics/measures for unintentional microplastics from products)*
- *further developing and harmonising methods for measuring **unintentionally released microplastics, especially from tyres and textiles**, and delivering harmonised data on microplastics concentrations in seawater (MSFD)*
- *closing the gaps on scientific knowledge related to the risk and occurrence of microplastics in the environment, drinking water and foods (RTD policies/projects)*



HORIZON EUROPE MISSIONS

Mission 'Restore our Ocean and waters by 2030'



Development and piloting phase 2021 - 2024

Objective 1: Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity

- **Mission lighthouses** in the Danube river basin and in Arctic & Atlantic sea basins (Implementation charter and platform), Citizen Assemblies
- **Blue Parks Platform** and digital platform for co-creation of restoration projects with citizens
- Precursor of environmental and marine ecosystem monitoring and forecasting infrastructure and services
- New business models and community of investors and businesses for ecosystem restoration
- Knowledge for Blue carbon sequestration and certification of carbon removals

Objective 2: Prevent and eliminate pollution

- **Mission lighthouse** in the Mediterranean sea basin (implementation charter and platform), Citizen Assembly
- **Scalable breakthrough innovations** to prevent, remediate and monitor pollution
- **Monitoring system of pollution sources, pathways, hotspots** and impacts in the Mediterranean sea
- A digital platform to enable scaling and co-creation among stakeholders to share zero pollution best practices

Objective 3: Carbon neutral and circular Blue economy

- **Mission lighthouse** in the North sea and Baltic sea basin (implementation charter and platform), Citizen Assembly
- **Battery, hydrogen or ammonia-driven ferries** calling at ports of three different countries
- Digital platform to enable sharing data, best practices and solutions in the frame of a precursor of the ocean Digital knowledge system.
- A **Blue Forum** for users of the sea, as envisaged in the Sustainable Blue Economy Strategy.