



Meeting of the Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO)

Organised in cooperation with the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI)

A Blue Deal for a water resilient Europe

Towards a comprehensive water strategy in the context of the climate and biodiversity emergencies

Date: 02/07/2024 10:00 – 13:00 (TBC)
Organised by: EESC – Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO)
Venue: VMA23

Concept note and draft programme

We are facing more and more pressing challenges posed by floods and droughts, pollution, ageing infrastructure, climate change, biodiversity loss, as well as a fragmented approach to water policies at EU level. In addition, the EU is not on track to achieve the water-related SDGs.

This meeting of the Sustainable Development Observatory (SDO) is organized in cooperation with the Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI). Following up on the EESC's call for an EU Blue Deal, which was launched last year in October, the meeting will address the urgent need for a cross-cutting, coherent and sustainable water policy for Europe while looking at the links with the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

This event is also timely to feed into the discussions at global level, with the UN High Level Political Forum assessing the state of SDGs implementation in mid-July, the One Water Summit taking place in September and the UN COPs on biodiversity, climate and desertification fast approaching.

In the context of the 2024 European elections and the announcement of an initiative on Water Resilience in the [Commission Work Programme 2024](#), this event will help to underline the urgent need for an EU Blue Deal, complementary to the EU Green Deal and the Agenda 2030, as a cross-cutting standalone strategy to ensure that all EU policies will be coherent in the aim towards a water resilient Europe.

Two panel discussions will be organized to set the scene on water as a cross cutting factor, as well as to discuss comprehensive water strategies in the context of the climate and biodiversity emergencies.

Speakers will include representatives from EU institutions and international organizations (such as the IPCC, IPBES and FAO), Member States, civil society and youth organisations across sectors (in particular the agri-food sector).