

Policy Brief

Strategies for a Water-Resilient Clean Industrial Deal: A Policy Blueprint

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- The European Union is at a critical juncture in balancing industrial competitiveness with environmental sustainability, amid global competition and internal challenges like regional economic disparities and rising energy costs.
- The EU Commission's Clean Industrial Deal aims to address these issues, with a crucial focus on water resource management, which is essential for both industrial and environmental goals. Effective water management is vital to ensure the EU does not miss the opportunity to shape its future industry sustainably.

Current Gaps in Legislation

- The EU's Water Framework Directive ensures water quality but lacks comprehensive provisions for water quantity management.
- The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) does not include emerging industries like semiconductors, batteries, and hydrogen production, nor does it incorporate circularity in water management.

Policy Recommendations

A New Circular Water Efficiency Framework

to include emerging industries and to incorporate binding provisions on water circularity

Accelerating Innovation with the Clean Water Innovation Fund (CWIF)

for the development and deployment of advanced water reuse, recycling, and treatment technologies

Enhancing Digitalisation in Industrial Water Management with Advanced Monitoring Mechanisms

's to ensure alignment with decarbonization and industrial resilience objectives.