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Clean waterSafe drinking water and sanitation are fundamental human rights.Health impactHighly persistent pollutants, such as PFAS, keep accumulating in EU waters with associated health impacts estimated to cost between €52 and €84 billion annually.Business opportunityEurope is a global leader in water technology, holding 40% of all patents globally. Its water industry generates €107 billion and supports 1.7 million jobs. The Commission will work towards water resilience byRestoring and protecting the water cycleRestore and protect the water cycle from source to sea to ensure resilience against floods, droughts and water scarcity, by effectively implementing the already existing EU laws for freshwater.Adopt water-smart practices and green infrastructure to improve water retention on land, prevent water pollution and tackle pollutants in drinking water, including per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).Building a water-smart economyProvide guidance on how to reduce water consumption and improve water efficiency in the EU by 10% by 2030.Reduce leaks in pipes and modernise water infrastructure through public and private funding and take up of digital solutions.Ensuring access to clean and affordable water for allRaise public awareness by promoting education and the exchange of best practices in saving water, and support sound water pricing policies.Reinforce the EU's role in promoting water resilience worldwide through international partnerships and cooperation.Find out more about the water resilience strategy The water resilience strategy is firmly rooted in the 2050 vision put forward by the EU at the 2023 UN Water Conference. Water resilience is a priority of the European Commission as President von der Leyen announced in the 2024-2029 Political Guidelines.As from December 2025, the Commission will hold, every two years, a water resilience forum. This will bring together stakeholders and interested parties to take stock of progress made in enhancing water resilience across all levels of government, business and civil society, and monitoring implementation of this strategy. As a world-leading centre for research and innovation with freedom of science, the European Union offers an ideal environment to advance your career.With a wealth of stable and predictable funding opportunities and cutting-edge facilities, the EU enables researchers to work on projects where they can truly make a difference. You'll join a dynamic and international community of top talent, all dedicated to finding solutions to the world's biggest challenges. Europe offers an excellent quality of life, including affordable healthcare and education, excellent working conditions and strong social security for you and your family. You'll also enjoy freedoms and protections based on our values, available from Horizon Europe, EU's funding programme for research and innovationpackage for 2025-2027 to make Europe a magnet for researchers President of the European Commission My view is that our era's greatest challenges - from security to climate change to competitiveness - can only be solved through joint action. Against this backdrop, I believe Europe must choose its best option: Union.President von der Leyen 15-17 June 2025KananaskisEvent on 'The Mattei plan for Africa and Global Gateway: A common effort with the African Continent' Ursula von der Leyen was the first woman to become President of the European Commission in 2019. She was elected for a second mandate by the European Parliament in July 2024, and will lead the Commission until the European elections in 2029. Stay up to date with news from the European Commission. Discover the latest updates, stories, and press and audiovisual material. The Commission is organised into:Policy departments, known as Directorates-General, responsible for different policy areas. They develop, implement and manage EU policy, law, and funding programmesService departments dealing with particular administrative issuesExecutive agencies managing programmes set up by the CommissionList of departments and executive agenciesCommission officesThe European Commission is present in each Member State with at least one representation office in charge of communication and information at local level.Offices outside the EU, known as EU Delegations, are managed by the European External Action Service. They help promote EU interests and policies as well as undertake a variety of outreach programmes. Certain principles guide the Commission in its work: transparency, ethical behaviour, equal opportunities, multilingualism, as well as digital transformation and the environmental impact. The Commission works continuously towards offering its staff a modern workplace and careers, and to attract and retain the best talent across all EU countries. People working at the European Commission help shape Europe's future and need to perform at the highest level in the interest of all Europeans. Varied and fulfilling careers in a vibrant, multilingual and multicultural environmentKey figures about Commission staff Ways to engage with our work, from participating in policymaking to applying for EU fundingIndividual and group visits to the Commission and its officesDo you have questions for or about the Commission? Here is our contact information The Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST) takes forward the EU's Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood policies. DG ENEST works closely with the European External Action Service and the line DGs in charge of thematic priorities.In the enlargement area, DG ENEST assists those countries with a perspective to join the EU in meeting the criteria defined by the Treaty of European Union and the European Council. DG ENEST closely monitors the progress of enlargement countries and supports accession negotiations as required by the Council. The DG manages the bilateral relations of the Union with candidates and potential candidates on their path to the EU, with a strong focus on reforms related to the rule of law, economic governance and public administration reform. DG ENEST manages the bulk of the Union's financial and technical assistance to the countries that are candidates or potential candidates for EU membership, as well as countries or peoples in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood, including Armenia, Azerbaijan and Belarus. The DG supports reform and democratic consolidation and promotes EU values, policies and interests in this region, strengthening prosperity, stability and security in and around Europe. This assistance is provided through several financing instruments: the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III), the Neighbourhood Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI), the Ukraine Facility, and the Reform and Growth Facility for the Western Balkans. DG ENEST also manages three investment frameworks - the European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD+), the Western Balkans Investment Framework, and the Ukraine Investment Framework, providing budgetary guarantees, financial instruments and blending.Enlargement and Eastern Neighbourhood websiteTransparencyAs part of the Commission's commitment to transparency, Commission staff holding management functions publish information on and minutes of all meetings they hold with interest representatives.Meetings of the Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood NameDirectorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern NeighbourhoodPhone number+32 2 299 11 11 (Commission switchboard)Postal addressEuropean Commission Rue de la Loi 15/ Wetstraat 15 1049 Bruxelles/Brussel Belgium EurobarometerEU lawLearning cornerEuropean Commission visual identityJobsFunding and tendersEventsEuropean Commission on social media €200 billion to boost AI development in Europe€20 billion to finance up to five AI gigafactories13 AI factories will support startups, industry, and research activities Building on the launch of the InvestAI initiative that will mobilise €200 billion for investment in AI In the EU, the AI continent action plan aims to enhance our AI capabilities, by promoting initiatives around five key areas.Building a large-scale AI computing infrastructureAdvanced AI models need investment, infrastructure and collaboration. Our plan will bring the necessary elements together to help European businesses excel in AI bysetting up at least 13 AI factories across Europe, using our world-leading supercomputing network. These factories will support startups, industry, and researchers to develop cutting-edge AI models and applications.establishing up to 5 AI gigafactories, large-scale facilities with massive computing power and data centres. They will enable the training of complex AI models at an unprecedented scale. This initiative requires both public and private investment and will secure EU leadership in frontier AI.the InvestAI facility that aims to mobilise €20 billion, to drive private investment in gigafactories.proposing the cloud and AI development act that will boost private investment in cloud and data centres. The goal is to at least triple the EU's data centre capacity within the next five to seven years, prioritising sustainable data centres. Increasing access to high-quality dataLarge, high-quality datasets are essential to develop and train advanced AI models. We will create the conditions for a single market for data throughthe upcoming data union strategy, which will foster a true internal market for data, enabling the scaling up of AI development across the EU.data labs within AI factories to gather and organise high-quality data from diverse sources. This will give researchers and developers the tools they need to innovate.Promoting AI in strategic sectorsCurrently, only 13.5% of EU companies use AI. To bridge this gap the Commission will soon launch the apply AI strategy. This strategy willStrengthening AI skills and talentsTo meet the increasing demand for AI talent, we will educate and train the next generation of AI experts based in the EU.incentivise European AI talent to stay and to return to the EU attract and retain skilled AI talent from non-EU countries, including researchers. Simplifying the implementation of the AI actWe are committed to supporting our companies and EU countries in the implementation of the AI Act. We have already published guidelines and are facilitating codes of practice. The upcoming AI Act Service Desk will be a central point of contact for businesses seeking information and guidance. News article1 April 2025Directorate-General for Communication1 min read The Commission has presented ProtectEU, a new European internal security strategy to support EU countries in guaranteeing security for its citizens. It sets out a workplan with a stronger legal framework, better information sharing and closer cooperation. To address increasing security and hybrid threats like terrorism, organised crime, cybercrime, and attacks on critical infrastructure, Europe needs to review its approach to internal security. The strategy aims to adopt a whole-of-society approach that includes citizens, businesses, researchers, and civil society who can contribute to better safety for all. Key objectives and actions: a new European internal security governance anticipating security threats through new ways of sharing intelligence more effective tools for law enforcement and stronger justice and home affairs agencies building resilience against hybrid threats fighting serious and organised crime combatting terrorism and violent extremism the EU as a strong global player on security The actions are backed by evidence from the EU Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (EU-SOCTA). The strategy complements the preparedness union strategy and the European defence white paper. Together with the forthcoming European Democracy Shield, they form a comprehensive framework for a safe, secure, and resilient EU. For more information Press release Factsheet Questions and answers Security and defence The European internal security strategy Internal Security Publication dateAuthorDirectorate-General for Communication In March 2021, the European Commission adopted the Strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities 2021-2030. With this ten-year strategy, the European Commission wants to improve the lives of persons with disabilities in Europe and around the world.The Strategy builds on the results of the previous European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, which paved the way to a barrier-free Europe and to empower persons with disabilities so they can enjoy their rights and participate fully in society and economy. Despite the progress made in the past decade, persons with disabilities still face considerable barriers and have a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion.The objective of this Strategy is to progress towards ensuring that all persons with disabilities in Europe, regardless of their sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age or sexual orientationenjoy their human rightshave equal opportunities, equal access to participate in society and economyare able to decide where, how and with whom they livemove freely in the EU regardless of their support needsand no longer experience discriminationThis new and strengthened Strategy takes account of the diversity of disability comprising long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments (in line with Article 1 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), which are often invisible.Addressing the risks of multiple disadvantage faced by women, children, older persons, refugees with disabilities, and those with socioeconomic difficulties, it promotes an intersectional perspective in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).The new strategy therefore contains an ambitious set of actions and flagship initiatives in various domains and has numerous priorities, such asaccessibility: being able to move and reside freely but also to participate in the democratic processhaving a decent quality of life and to live independently as it focuses notably on the de-institutionalisation process, social protection and non-discrimination at workequal participation as it aims to effectively protect persons with disabilities from any form of discrimination and violence, to ensure equal opportunities in and access to justice, education, culture, sport and tourism, but also equal access to all health servicesthe role of the EU to lead by examplethe EU's intention to deliver on that strategypromoting the rights of persons with disabilities globallyFlagship initiativesAccessibleEU, a knowledge base providing information and good practices on accessibility across sectors (by end 2022)European Disability Card: the European Commission will propose a European Disability Card that would apply to all EU countries. The card will make it easier for persons with disabilities to get the proper support when they travel or move to another country in the European Union. (by end 2023)Guidance recommending improvements on independent living and inclusion in the community. This will contribute to enabling persons with disabilities to live in accessible, supported housing in the community or to continue living at home (2023).A framework for social services of excellence for persons with disabilities (2024)A package to improve labour market outcomes of persons with disabilities (to be launched second half of 2022)Disability Platform: The Disability Platform brings together national authorities responsible for implementation of the Convention, organisations of persons with disabilities and the Commission. It supports the implementation of the strategy and enhances cooperation and exchange on implementing the Convention.Renewed HR strategy for the European Commission, including actions to promote diversity and inclusion of persons with disabilities.Delivering the Strategy: working closely together with EU countriesThe Commission will support Member States in shaping their national strategies and action plans to further implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the EU legislation in the field.The European Commission calls on Member States to contribute to this new and reinforced Strategy as the framework for EU actions and for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.