

EU's Latest Environmental Regulations: Water Quality, Climate Targets, and C

EU Environment · Answer Key · 14 Questions

1. What is the primary objective of the EU Directive 2026/805, which entered into force on May 11, 2026?

- A) To promote the use of single-use plastics in aquatic environments.
- B) To revise the list of water pollutants to include emerging substances like PFAS and microplastics, and to improve water resilience.**
- C) To allow increased discharge of industrial wastewater to boost economic activity.
- D) To reduce the frequency of water quality monitoring across Member States.

2. The amendment to the European Climate Law, which entered into force on April 7, 2026, established a legally binding target for net greenhouse gas emissions reduction. What is this target for the year 2040 compared to 1990 levels?

- A) A 70% reduction
- B) A 90% reduction**
- C) A 50% reduction
- D) A 100% reduction

3. Which digital system is mandated for intra-community waste shipments starting May 2026, replacing paper forms to speed up processes?

- A) WasteTrace EU
- B) CircularFlow
- C) DIWASS**
- D) EcoShip

4. Under the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), what is the enforcement date for large and medium-sized operators?

- A) June 30, 2027
- B) December 30, 2026**
- C) July 1, 2026
- D) December 31, 2026

5. Directive (EU) 2024/2881, adopted on October 23, 2024, introduces stricter air quality standards. What is a key characteristic of this new directive in relation to existing guidelines?

- A) It significantly relaxes limits for all major pollutants to ease industrial burden.
- B) It aligns more closely with World Health Organization (WHO) air quality guidelines.**
- C) It introduces new pollutants but provides no updated limit values.
- D) It postpones the enforcement of all air quality standards until 2050.

6. The EU's Circular Economy Act, due for adoption in 2026, aims to achieve a specific goal for the EU's circularity rate by 2030. What is this target?

- A) To maintain the current rate of approximately 12%
- B) To triple the current rate to 36%
- C) To double the current rate to 24%**
- D) To achieve a 15% circularity rate

7. What new requirement does EU Directive 2026/805 introduce for water quality monitoring?

- A) Only chemical-based monitoring methods.
- B) Exclusively remote sensing techniques.
- C) The use of 'effect-based monitoring' to assess combined pollutant impacts.**
- D) A reduction in the number of monitoring stations to cut costs.

8. The European Commission adopted a proposal in March 2026 for a regulation to accelerate industrial capacity and decarbonisation in strategic sectors. What is this proposed regulation called?

- A) The Green Industrial Deal
- B) The Industrial Accelerator Act (IAA)**
- C) The Clean Tech Manufacturing Act
- D) The European Industrial Resilience Act

9. Which substances, often referred to as 'forever chemicals', are explicitly mentioned as being newly added to the EU's list of water pollutants under Directive 2026/805?

- A) Phthalates and BPA
- B) PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances)**
- C) Heavy metals like lead and mercury
- D) VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds)

10. What is the revised target for the share of renewables in the EU's final energy consumption by 2030, as mentioned in recent updates?

- A) 35%
- B) 42.5%**
- C) 50%
- D) 25%

11. What is a significant concern raised by a report regarding the EU's upcoming Circular Economy Act, specifically concerning incinerator bottom ash (IBA)?

- A) That it promotes the recycling of plastic bottles too aggressively.
- B) That it risks entrenching the use of hazardous waste in construction materials.**
- C) That it does not adequately address the recovery of rare earth metals.
- D) That it mandates the export of all residual waste outside the EU.

12. Regulation (EU) 2026/667, which entered into force on March 18, 2026, amended the European Climate Law. What flexibility does it introduce regarding the 2040 climate target?

- A) It allows unlimited use of international carbon credits.
- B) It permits the use of high-quality international carbon credits to meet up to 5% of the target from 2036 onwards.**
- C) It mandates that all emissions reductions must be achieved domestically.
- D) It requires a 10% reduction in emissions through carbon removal technologies only.

13. Which two key pieces of EU legislation regarding corporate sustainability reporting and due diligence underwent substantial changes and entered into force on March 18, 2026, as part of the Omnibus I Directive?

- A) REACH and CLP Regulations
- B) The Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD)**
- C) The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the NIS Directive
- D) The Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation (ESPR) and the Circular Economy Act

14. The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) covers several key commodities. Which of the following is NOT among the seven primary commodities listed in Annex I of the EUDR?

- A) Cocoa
- B) Coffee
- C) Rubber
- D) Fish**