



“The role of water in the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change?”

**Webinar organized by
European Parliament Intergroup on *"Climate Change, Biodiversity
and Sustainable Development"***

**Statement by Thomas Stratenwerth
(Germany)**

Water-related adaptation matters

- Climate change impacts primarily manifest in changes to **the water cycle**
- Climate-resilient water management is critical for **overall climate-resilience**
- Resilience of water systems largely depends on sustainable **practices in other sectors**.
- The EU and its Member States will be affected by climate change **impacts outside Europe**
- Limits of current incremental adaptation practices - call for more systemic change and **transformational approaches**.
- Increasing water-related resilience also offers **opportunities/synergies**

Climate change impacts in Europe's regions

Climate change is projected to impact the availability of water in Europe, putting additional pressure on southern regions already facing water stress. Other parts of Europe are expected to face more frequent flooding events, while low-lying regions are at risk from storm surges and sea level rise.

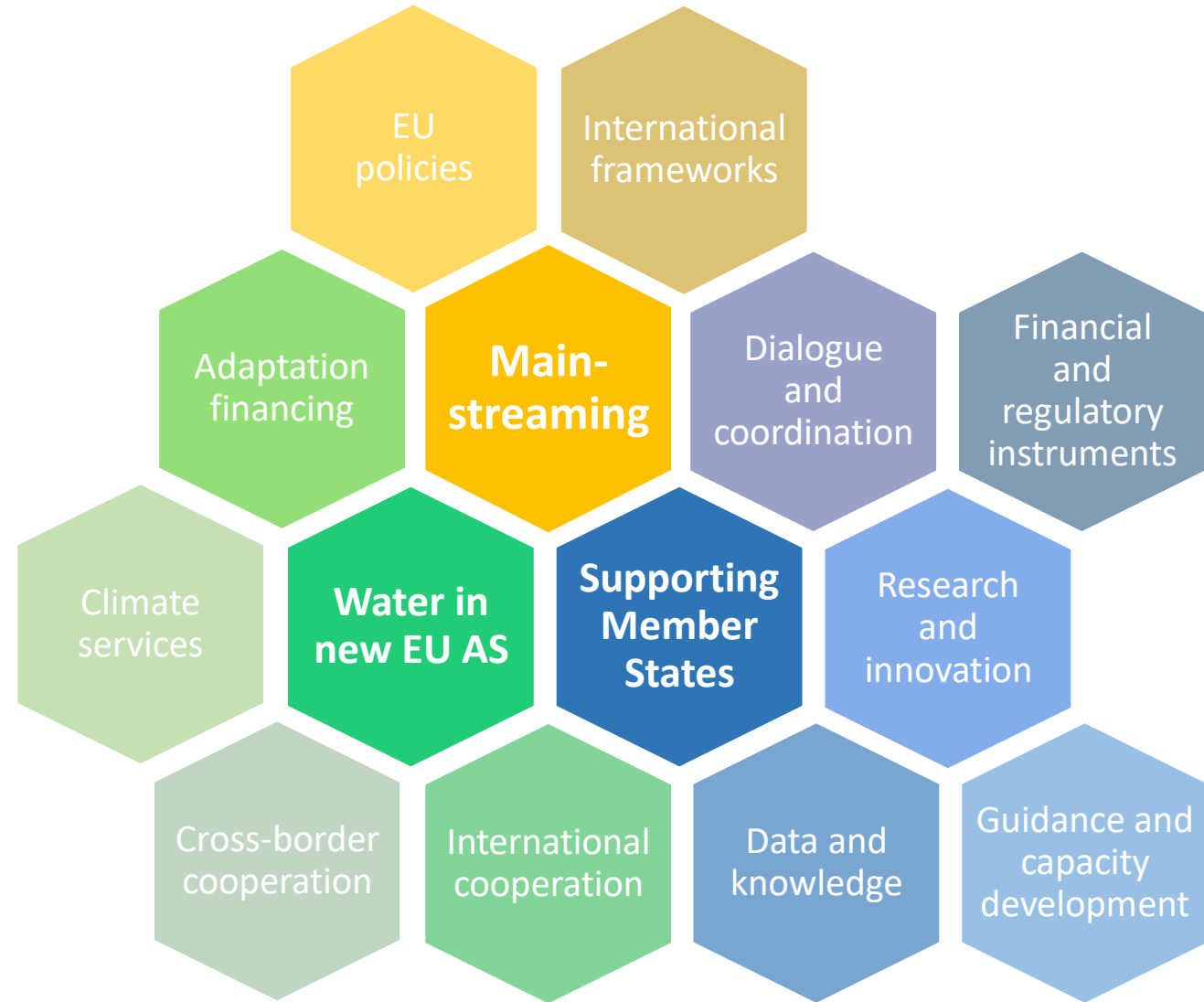




Climate change and the European water dimension – Enhancing resilience

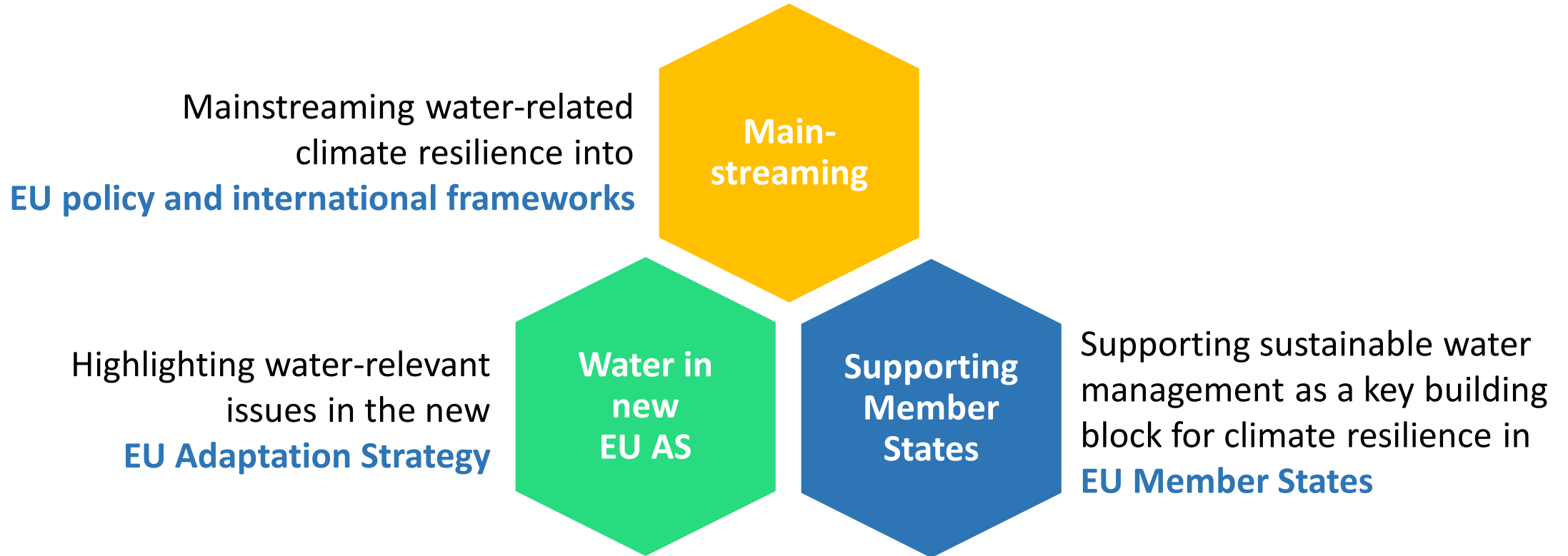
4–5 November 2020 | Online

Policy Paper



<https://www.bmu.de/en/climate-change-and-the-european-water-dimension/>

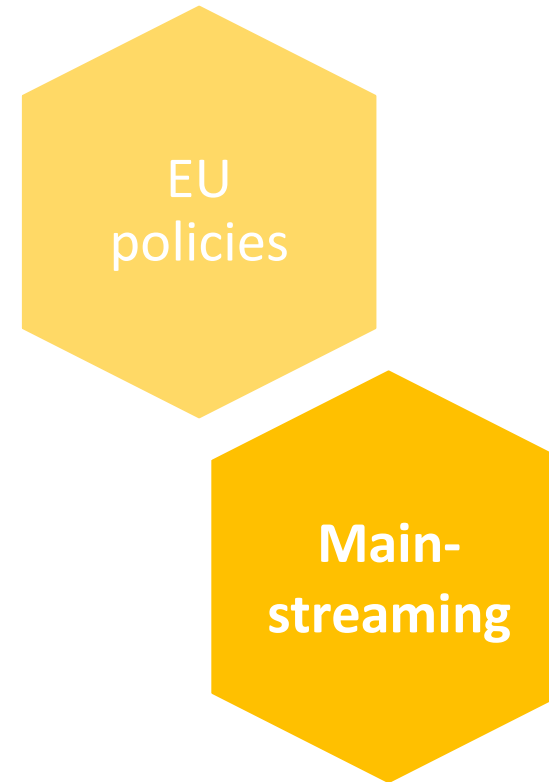
EU framework conditions - key for enabling relevant actors to accelerate adaptation efforts



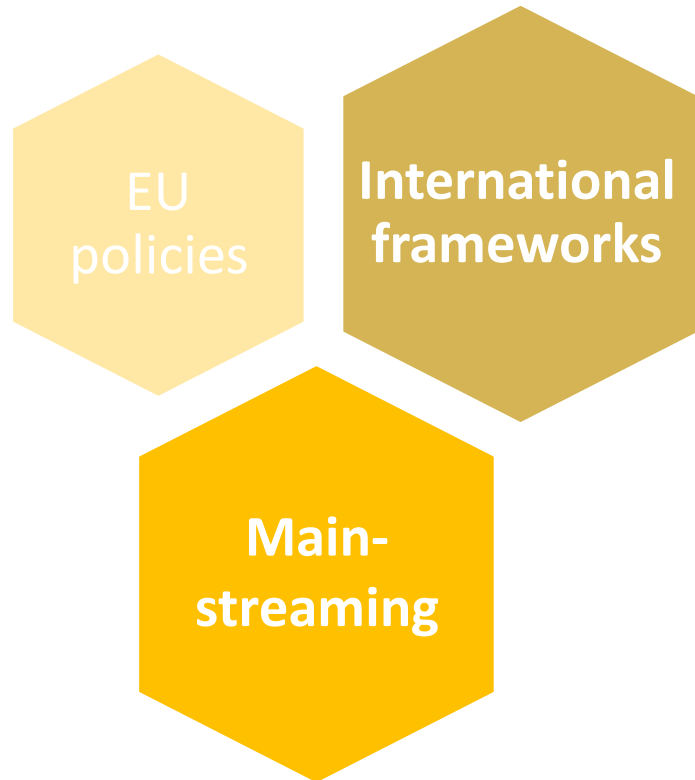
Mainstreaming water-related climate resilience into EU policy and international frameworks

Increase coherence and ambition across relevant **EU policies, strategies, and initiatives**

- Make water resilience a priority in the CAP strategic plans!
- Integrate water sustainability issues into National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)!
- Exploit synergies with objectives of the Urban Agenda for the EU, EU Forest Strategy, EU Biodiversity Strategy, Farm to Fork Strategy!
- Provide guidance and good practice examples!



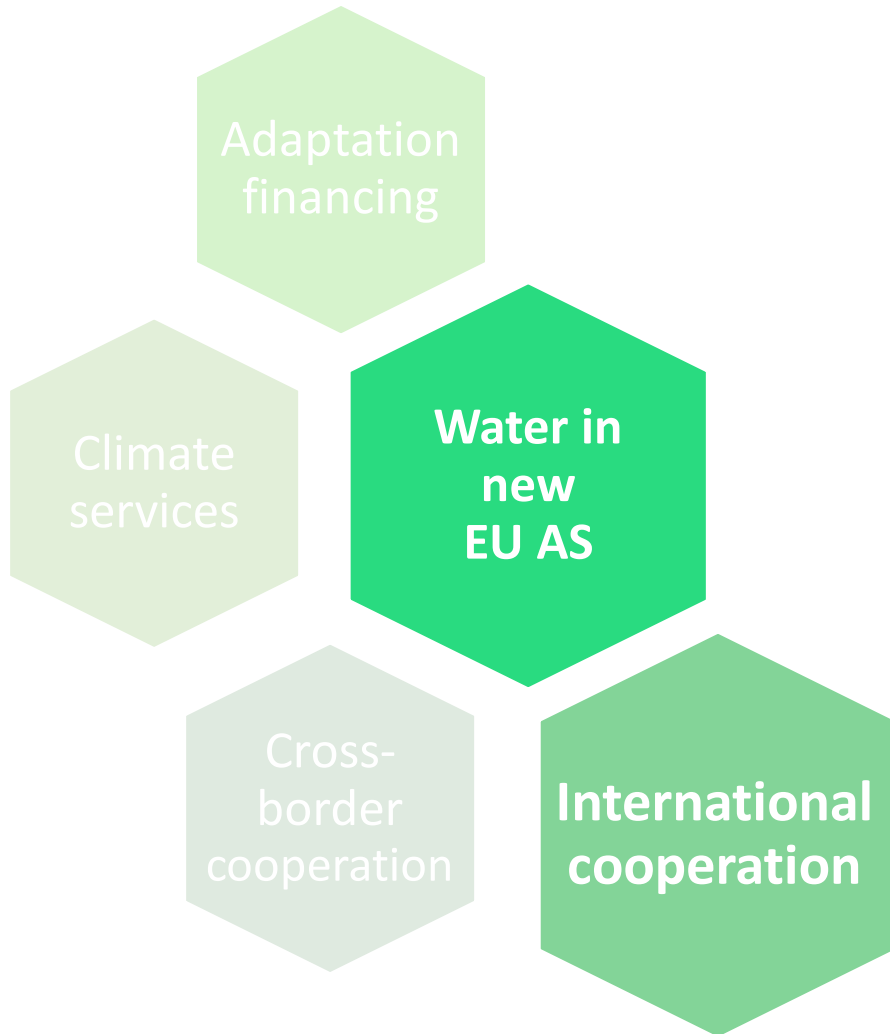
Mainstreaming water-related climate resilience into EU policy and international frameworks



Mainstreaming water resilience into implementation of international policy frameworks
(UNFCCC – Sendai Framework – 2030 Agenda)

- Minimise trade-offs due to conflicting objectives!
- Promote synergetic effects and co-benefits of climate resilient water management!
- Strengthen exchange and collaboration accross stakeholder communities!

Highlighting water-relevant issues in the new EU Adaptation Strategy



Provide appropriate **adaptation financing** for water-related climate resilience

Improve availability of water-relevant data and **climate services (CS)**

Promote **cross-border cooperation** in climate adaptation in transnational regions and transboundary river and marine basins

Continue and strengthen **international cooperation** to increase climate resilience in vulnerable countries and major trade partners

Supporting sustainable water management as a key building block for climate resilience in EU Member States



- Ensuring sustainable water systems in the future will require a fundamental change in **how water is used by various sectors and valued by society**.
- More transformational change needs to be promoted through **cross-sectoral coordination, stakeholder participation and awareness-raising**.
- **Financial and regulatory instruments** should be applied to incentivise and steer change towards more resilience.
- Climate-resilient water management needs to be further strengthened through **research and innovation, data and knowledge generation as well as guidance and capacity development**.

Some additional messages from the breakouts at the conference

- Integrating adaptation and mitigation for exploiting synergies and avoiding maladaptation or negative effects of mitigation measures, multi-functional measures such as nature based solutions
- Emphasis on sustainable and integrated urban planning, e.g. to deal with heavy rainfall events
- EU should provide more guidance and knowledge exchange on good practice examples for mainstreaming at different levels
- Knowledge generation, providing reliable assessments and forecasts of climate change impacts, improving access to tailor-made data, information and climate services,

Some additional messages from the breakouts at the conference

- Indicator development for assessing climate risks as well as adaptation benefits and co-benefits, and for evaluating and communicating results of adaptation measures
- Strengthen role of regional coordination and cooperation mechanisms within member states, across borders, and in EU neighbouring countries
- Highlight importance of local initiatives and the role of sub-national /regional authorities in coordinating local activities
- Address climate-resilience in external and trade relations