



HELCOM Stakeholder Conference 2025
A 'one Baltic' approach towards a sea
unaffected by hazardous substances
31 March 2025

Challenges in Estonian Wastewater treatment sector

Ivar Ruubel

COO

AS Tallinna Vesi



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What is currently happening in the wastewater sector on the topic of hazardous substances?

- Existing National regulation for heavy metals was amended at the end of 2024
- New UWWTD was adopted by the EU council at the end of 2024
- Most discussion surround the new UWWTD
- PFAS phase-out discussion at EU level



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What are the challenges in implementing the new EU UWWTD for the sector and what are the opportunities for reducing the input of substances in the list of HELCOM priority substances?

- The everlasting invention of new substances – bad, good?
- Effective technology selection
- Cost allocation for 4. stage, EPR
- Point source regulations
- Economical feasibility of treatment – scale effect