

Second-highest water stress?

The Council's figures on Malta's water, tested

THE CLAIM

“...reached 66.7% in the third quarter of 2023, the second-highest level among EU Member States.”

Council of the European Union, draft Recommendation on Malta, 3 July 2026

Recital (30), citing Malta's Third River Basin Management Plan.

The Council relays figures from other bodies.

VERDICT

LARGELY SUPPORTED

Every figure reproduces from EEA and Eurostat data.

SUPPORTED

LARGELY
SUPPORTED

NOT
SUBSTANTIATED

MISLEADING

CONTRADICTED

MAIN RESULTS

66.7%

Matches the EEA

Malta's worst quarter (Q3) in 2023; only Cyprus (92.1%) is higher.

58%

Surface waters, by number

11 of 19 bodies good or high; 97% by area, as coastal waters dominate.

45%

Good chemical status

9 of 20 bodies, counting the territorial sea; 47% without it.

82%

Groundwater area, poor quantity

4 of 15 bodies, but the largest aquifer is in poor status.

100%

Groundwater, poor chemistry

All 15 bodies fail good chemical status.

FAIR TO SAY

Eurostat's annual 2023 figure ranks Malta third (Romania higher) and is 30%, not 67%; the Council says 'seasonal'.

WHAT WOULD SETTLE IT

☐ The Third RBMP's status tables.

☐ Why EEA and Eurostat differ for Romania.

☐ The adopted Council text.