

EurEau

Annual  
report  
2020

# Our work in 2020

When we look back at 2020, we will undoubtedly agree that it was a landmark year. The European Commission resolved that the turnaround from the economic fallout from the Covid-19 pandemic will be a green one. We believe it should be blue.

Water is at the heart of many of the strategies announced by the EU. Indeed, water is essential for life, and there isn't a policy that isn't impacted by or have an impact on it.

The Green Deal, announced by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen promises to make the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities. The European Green Deal provides an action plan to boost the efficient use of resources by moving to a clean, circular economy and restore biodiversity and cut pollution.

Good news for the European water sector as cutting pollution – and the supporting Zero Pollution Action Plan – means correctly implementing the Control at Source Principle to reduce the amount of potentially harmful pollutants ending up in our water cycle. And, if our environment is polluted, the Polluter-Pays Principle and Extended Producer

Responsibility should apply to ensure that our water services remain affordable for everyone.

Linked to the Green Deal are the supporting strategies. The Biodiversity Strategy and the European Climate Pact aim to tackle climate change, something that water operators have had on their agenda for years. Water is inherently impacted by climate change through adverse weather events such as floods and storms, but also through droughts putting strain on our water resources. Tackling climate change means secure water supplies for us all.

Turning to agriculture, we welcome the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy (F2F) to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly. Safe and secure water supplies are fundamental to the delivery of our food, and fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems. The intensive use of anthropogenic substances such as



nitrate, pesticides and veterinary medicines, including their metabolites, is increasingly having a negative impact on the quality of drinking water resources. At the same time, waste water proposes plentiful ways to replenish and nourish our soil while conserving these drinking water supplies.

The success of the full value chain approach that the F2F Strategy proposes will largely depend on its full alignment with other components of the Green Deal, including its zero pollution ambition, climate change goals and Circular Economy Strategy. The EU needs a systemic change, and the F2F could provide the framework for a sustainable food system. The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is designed to offer the support that farmers need. However, the CAP must also put tools in place that encourage farmers to reduce their environmental footprint and comply with applicable EU legislation. Separate to the Green Deal, but nonetheless intrinsically interlinked are the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability and the Strategy for Pharmaceuticals in the Environment. If they are fit for purpose, their outcomes should see fewer potentially harmful contaminants in the environment.

But it is not all grand, overarching strategies at EU level. The nuts and bolts of EU legislation are its directives and regulations.

Four years after it was touted, the EU finalised the Drinking Water Directive this year. The new

directive is fit for purpose and will significantly contribute to consumer and environmental protection for years to come if it is properly implemented and ambitiously supported by the Member States. Water remains safe and affordable, while Member States will improve access for all.

There were three goals in revising the directive: adapt the legislation to new challenges by updating the list of quality parameters, implementing WHO's Water Safety Plan approach and increase the transparency of water services. At the same time, the new directive lacks uniform definitions that are at the basis of some obligations, giving Member States more flexibility in the implementation process.

Waste water is also being tackled with the European Commission opening up a possible revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). This directive aims to protect the environment and people from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges, requiring that waste water is collected and treated before it is returned to the environment. A lot has changed since the original 1991 directive which saw a massive improvement in the quality of our rivers, lakes and seas around Europe and thereby helping the EU to attain the goals of the Water Framework Directive, amongst other directives, and improve biodiversity.

Any new directive would have to deal with contemporary challenges such as new

contaminants of emerging concern, climate change and pandemics plus our move towards a cleaner, greener environment. It would be an opportunity to implement Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) and the Control at Source and Polluter Pays Principles. This will help to reduce investment requirements and operational costs while keeping water services affordable. This is also key for enabling the Circular Economy and resource recovery by controlling sewage sludge quality.

A lot happened this year, and we in EurEau have a lot more to do. Our members are key to our success. We can only achieve our goal of keeping water safe, clean, healthy and affordable today and tomorrow thanks to our wonderful team of expert members, ready to generously give their valuable time and experience to ensuring that the knowledge we share with our partners is relevant. This is the spirit of EurEau – working together to achieve more. I thank each of our members and our fabulous Secretariat for their continued support and invaluable contributions.



**DR CLAUDIA CASTELL-EXNER**  
EUREAU PRESIDENT

# Policy work

## Water Legislation



### WHAT WE WANT

**Water resources need to be protected and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive be mainstreamed in various sectoral legislation such as energy, agriculture, and transport.**

**The water legislation fitness check is a comprehensive policy evaluation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and its so-called daughter directives - the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD), the Groundwater Directive (GWD) and the Floods Directive (FD). It assesses whether the directives are fit for purpose by examining their performance against their effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value.**

#### **Our activities in 2020**

The European Commission presented the results of the fitness check on water legislation early in the year. It concluded that even though the legislation is broadly fit for purpose, it could still be improved.

There are pluses and minuses in the fitness check. We share the assessment of missing opportunities to tackle the implementation of the Polluter Pays, Control at Source and Precautionary Principles across all sectors. We [commented](#) on the outcome. The European Parliament also worked on the water legislation fitness check. We were in contact with MEPs to share our reaction and our position on the WFD.

The WFD requires that surface and ground water bodies are of 'good status' and that there is no deterioration in their quality. The directive is the centrepiece of the EU's water quality legislation, requiring

countries to ensure that all waterways are in "good ecological condition" by 2027.

The European Commissioner for the Environment, Virginijus Sinkevičius, confirmed in June that the WFD will not be revised. We [reacted](#) to the news.

The Commission is proceeding with its review of the daughter directives and the update of the Priority Substances. We submitted an [answer](#) to the Inception Impact Assessment.

We will work with the Commission's WG Chemicals on the priority substances dossiers. We proposed experts to assist the Commission and the JRC in the prioritisation work that will be carried out in 2021. At the same time, we continue to work with the EU institutions to properly implement the WFD.

### EU Strategy on Adapting to Climate Change

Climate Change was on the Commission's agenda early this year, with the EU Strategy on Adapting to Climate Change expected in 2021. We submitted [feedback](#) to the roadmap.

This strategy will be part of the Green Deal and will focus on encouraging investment in eco-friendly solutions, climate-proofing the economy, making key infrastructure more resilient, adding climate factors to risk management practice and stepping up prevention & preparedness.

### The Climate Pact

We [responded](#) to the 2030 Climate Targets Plan, and to the public consultation on the Climate Pact.

The Climate will give citizens and stakeholders from all parts of society a voice and role in designing new climate actions, sharing information, launching grassroots activities and showcasing solutions that others can follow. It aims to inform, inspire and foster cooperation between people and all parts of society. It will build on and facilitate existing activities as well as trigger and embrace new ones, acting as an 'umbrella' initiative offering opportunities for learning, exchange, co-creation and collaboration.

### Articles and meetings

Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) attended a meeting organised by Aqua Publica Europea on the fitness check of water legislation. The Commission was also present.

Oliver Loebel (EurEau), spoke on the Chemicals Strategy at the European Parliament's Intergroup working group on 'Water Management, Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development'

We also spoke at the same group's meeting on the future Climate Change Strategy, an occasion to highlight the important role that the water sector plays in adaptation.

Oliver spoke at the German presidency conference about climate change and water management. The conclusions will feed into the EU Adaptation Strategy.

“  
The Climate Pact will give citizens and stakeholders from all parts of society a voice”

**Customers and Cost recovery**  
Realising the WFD

**Consequences of the Wesser Ruling on Water Services**

**The Need for Greater Policy Co-ordination**  
Realising the WFD

**Post 2027 Scenario**  
Realising the WFD

**POSITION PAPERS & BRIEFING NOTES**

# Drinking Water Directive



## WHAT WE WANT

**Our drinking water should remain of high quality while being affordable for everyone. We worked to ensure that the final directive protects water consumers' health across Europe.**

**The EU's new Drinking Water Directive addresses and improves the quality of our drinking water to consumers. The adopted legislation will enable European water services to continue providing safe and affordable drinking water to consumers although the impacts of some elements have still to be clarified at national level.**

### Our activities in 2020

The Drinking Water Directive (DWD) was adopted by the European Parliament in December 2020 and became law soon after. The directive reflects the WHO recommendations and establishes an EU-wide framework for hygienic requirement for materials that are in contact with drinking water. The risk-based approach is also streamlined and made more coherent, as well as the requirements concerning information to the public.

We are pleased with the directive's final text.

We followed developments as the file made its way through the final checks in the institutions, including the translations and verifications by national governments, before the final vote in the Parliament and the Council.

The DWD may affect water service providers while other impacts will depend on how the legislation is transposed in Member States (ie: Watch list, PFAS).

This landmark piece of EU legislation entered into force in January 2021.

### Articles and other meetings

Read our [views](#)

**Drinking Water Directive**

**POSITION PAPERS & BRIEFING NOTES**

**PFAS and drinking water**

**DWD final agreement (internal)**

**Impact of drought on drinking water**

**Explanatory memorandum on the Drinking Water Directive**

# Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive



**The first Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) was adopted in 1991, generating huge environmental benefits by regulating the collection and treatment of waste water from urban areas.**

## Our activities in 2020

The evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive was released at the end of 2019.

We welcomed the [evaluation](#), supporting the main conclusions that the UWWTD has been an effective and efficient legal instrument which has been widely implemented, although we acknowledge that greater compliance is possible. We agree that the simplicity and straight-forward approach of the UWWTD have contributed to its success. Our views on the Inception Impact Assessment are outlined [here](#) and also on the [public consultation](#).

The UWWTD Expert Group met twice this year, with Jean-Pierre Silan from Belgaqua (Belgium) and Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) representing us.

We participated in the Commission's targeted stakeholder consultation. We emphasised the importance of considering the policy options as a package so that the overall impact is assessed. We also highlighted investment in existing assets and taking the various levels of implementation in each Member State into account.

EurEau proposed experts to work on a JRC/Commission study on the various pollutants and the relative possible treatments available.

We will work with the Commission to make sure that the challenges that the urban waste water sector is facing will be addressed sustainably, including CSOs, climate change, micropollutants and sewage sludge management.

## WHAT WE WANT

**The directive needs to be updated in order to deal with contemporary challenges such as remaining sources of pollution, new contaminants, climate change and pandemics plus our move towards a cleaner, greener environment. Polluters should pay to remove harmful substances should they enter our sewer systems. This will help to reduce investment requirements and operational costs while keeping water services affordable. These moves are also key for enabling the Circular Economy and resource recovery by controlling sewage sludge quality. A similar approach could be applied to urban run-off to limit and control the excess run-off entering sewers during rainy weather. This requires good urban planning and effective sewer management practices that take the local specificities into account.**

### EU Strategy for a New Circular Economy Action Plan

Strongly linked with the UWWTD is the New Circular Economy Action Plan (NCEAP). This plan aims to make circularity the mainstream in our lives and speed up the green transition of our economy. It proposes a more sustainable approach to chemical substances, plastics, textiles, ensuring the functioning of the market for secondary raw materials and improving synergies to mitigate climate change, all of which are concerns for the water sector. However, there are no concrete actions in the annex related to water, even if there are references to the Water Reuse Regulation and the directives on waste water treatment and sewage sludge. This omission is a failure for the economy to become truly circular.

The NCEAP announces the development of an Integrated Nutrient Management Plan. If well designed, it could help the water sector exploit its nutrient recovery potential. As regards microplastics, the plan fails to focus on Control at Source measures, thus increasing the risk of end-of-pipe cleaning steps.

The NCEAP is [here](#). You can [read](#) our response too. We sent our response to the Committee of the Regions as input to the opinion drafted by Rapporteur Tjisse Stelpstra.

We proposed amendments to the European Parliament's resolution on the NCEAP to include water in the scope of the plan.

### Articles and other meetings

EurEau joined the European Raw Material Alliance (ERMA) which aims to promote the sustainable recovery of phosphorous from waste water.

Sarah Gillman (Water UK, UK) and Michael Bentvelsen, (Unie van Waterschappen and Vewin, the Netherlands) co-Chairs of the EurEau Committee on Waste Water spoke at the WAREG (Association of Water Regulators) General Assembly. They presented the challenges of the waste water sector to meet the ambitions of the Green Deal on climate targets and zero pollution and of the Circular Economy in the context of the revision of the UWWTD.

The Commission and the German Presidency of the EU organised a conference in the revision of the UWWTD, covering the designation of sensitive areas and coherence with other EU legislation. Oliver Loebel (EurEau) presented the [Deloitte study](#) on Extended Producer Responsibility.

Sarah Gillman spoke at the ESPP General Assembly on Nutrients in EU water policy, ambition and implementation.

## POSITION PAPERS & BRIEFING NOTES

Management of waste water and storm water networks

What is a sewer network

Reducing the energy footprint of the water sector

Microplastics and the water sector

Treating micropollutants at the wwtp

Holistic approach to addressing micropollutants  
2019 update of source control

Water and the Circular Economy Package

Overflows from collecting systems

# Water Reuse Regulation and the Sewage Sludge Directive



## WHAT WE WANT

**Clear standards for the reuse of treated materials will ensure that these are safe to be recycled in the environment, promoting sustainability and responsibility along the whole chain of users.**

**Reusing and recycling are key to protecting the environment and ensuring that future generations have a safe and healthy future. Waste water treatment plants receive many materials that can be treated to achieve this.**

### Our activities in 2020

The EU adopted the Water Reuse Regulation with new minimum requirements defined and will mean that reclaimed water can be used in agriculture and for irrigation while protecting human and environmental health. Water reuse means reduced pressure on the drinking water resources that are usually used for irrigation. The adoption of this regulation that will apply from June 2023 facilitates the transition of the water sector to the circular economy.

We reacted to the European Parliament vote. Guidelines on the implementation of the regulation are being developed. This is a vital step for us in the validation process. The Commission’s Ad-hoc Task Group (ATG) on Water Reuse is also working on the guidelines for the risk assessment.

Also under the umbrella of the NCEAP, the European Commission announced in June that the Sewage Sludge Directive will be evaluated.

The directive regulates the use of treated sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and people.

“Water reuse means reduced pressure on the drinking water resources that are usually used for irrigation”

We submitted [feedback](#) on the roadmap as this directive can improve how sludge from waste water treatment plants can be treated and reused. We continue to work closely with the EU institutions on this evaluation to inform them on the current practices and on the positive impact and potential risks for the environment of the use of sewage sludge in agriculture or of the recovery of secondary raw materials from sewage sludge.

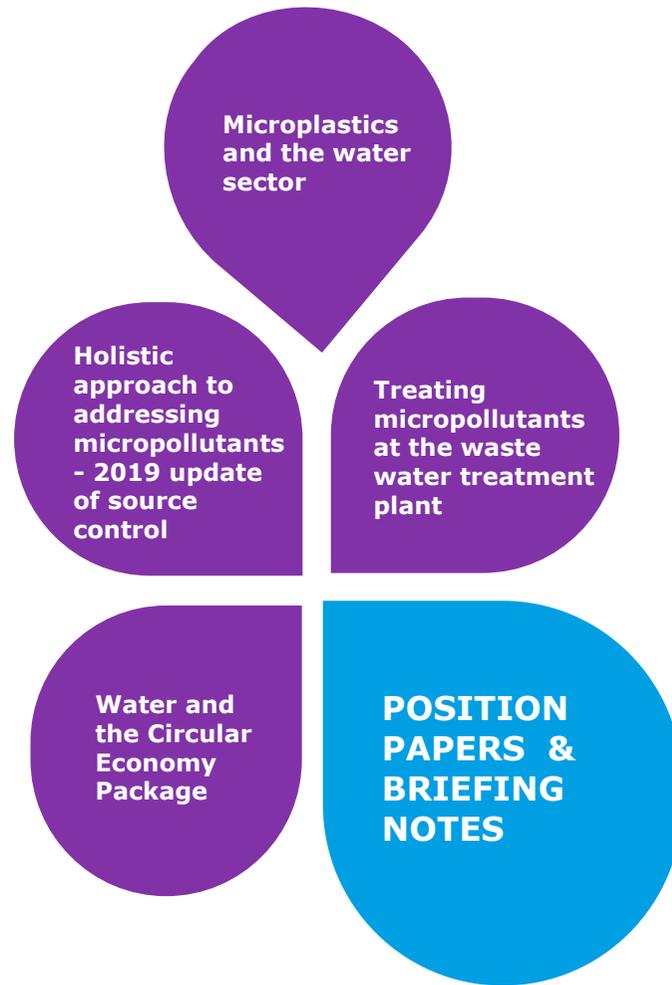
#### Articles and other meetings

Francesca Pizza (Utilitalia, Italy) and Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) attended the Ad-hoc Task Group on Water Reuse to discuss with the European Commission the guideline for the implementation of the regulation and for the guidance document for the risk assessment.

Sarah Gillman (Water UK, UK), co-Chair of our Committee on Waste Water), spoke at the ESPP General Assembly on Nutrients in EU water policy, ambition and implementation.

“

Reusing and recycling are key to protecting the environment”



# Water & the environment

## Single Use Plastics Directive & microplastics



### WHAT WE WANT

**We want the producers of wet wipes and other single use plastic items to accept responsibility for their products when they become waste. Along with financing awareness raising campaigns, they should also contribute to the costs of removing wet wipes from the waste water infrastructure.**

**Many single use plastics are currently not recycled. A significant share of these are not properly disposed of and end up in the environment or in the waste water network. For the water sector, this usually results in sewers clogged with wet wipes and blocked system pumps.**

This can result in our environment becoming polluted through overflows and increased health risks for our water workers who have to multiply maintenance operations.

In addition, microplastics can enter the waste water network and pollute our water resources.

The EU's Directive on Single Use Plastics will ban or regulate the use of certain single use plastics - including wet wipes - to ensure better protection of our environment.

#### **Our activities in 2020**

We participated in the Commission stakeholder group to discuss the legislative and guidance documents being prepared.

We urged the Commission to include the sewer network in the scope of litter clean-up actions. Our members worked with their national ministries to support our position.

Furthermore, we insisted on the need to include all wet wipes for professional use that are sold through B2C channels, and contributed to the evaluation of products labelling proposals.

Meanwhile on microplastics, as part of its Plastics Strategy and the new Circular Economy Action Plan, the Commission proposed measures to reduce the amount of unintentionally released microplastics in the environment.

The releases occur through wear and tear with the regular use of certain products, including tyres and synthetic clothes. The waste water infrastructure may be one of the pathways of such particles to the environment. Removing these in waste water treatment plants is costly, adds to water bills, and affects the Circular Economy options of waste water operators.

We want ambitious control at source measures included in European legislation to minimise the release of microplastics

into the aquatic environment. If measures at the level of drinking water production or waste water treatment plants become necessary, Extended Producer Responsibility should apply.

EurEau continued its cooperation with the Tyre and Road Wear Particles Platform initiated by the tyre manufacturers' association ETRMA.

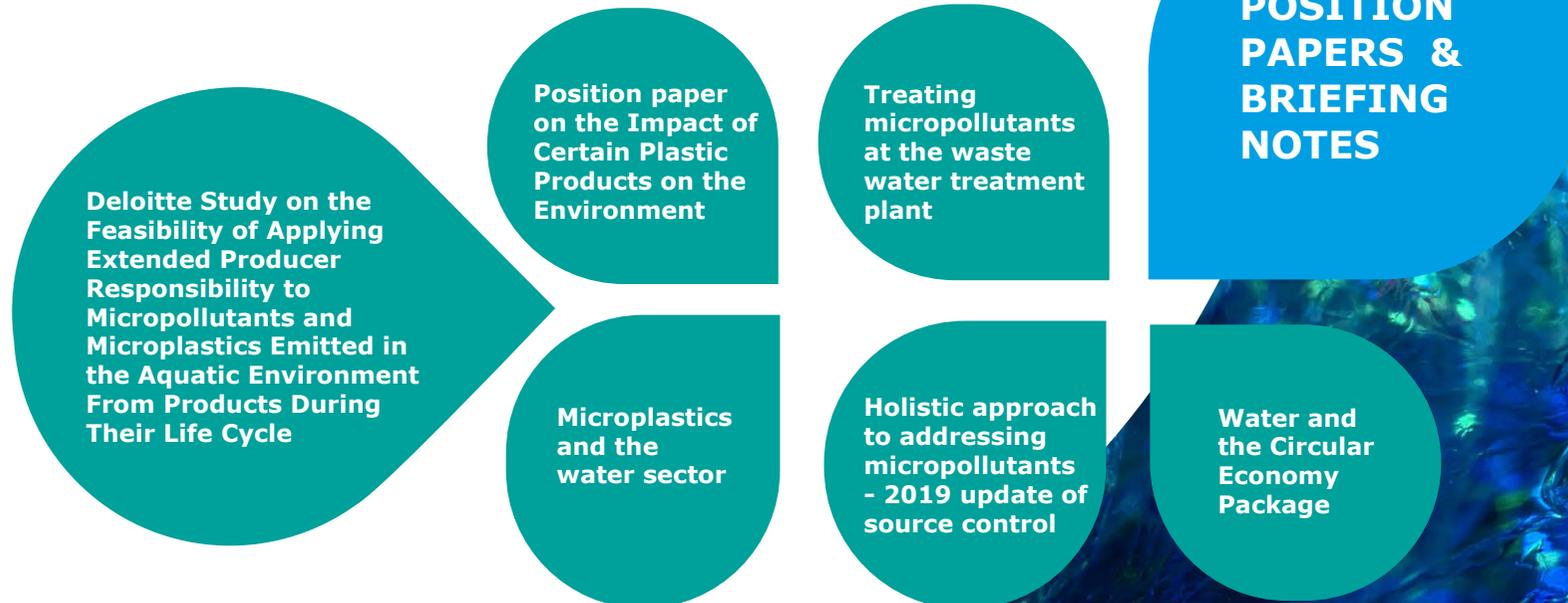
### Articles and other meetings

We worked with the European Commission on synthetic fibres and unintentionally released microplastics from tyres, textiles and pellets. Furthermore, we contributed to the OECD report on microplastics, with Greet de Gueldre, Chair of the EurEau Joint

Working Group on Pollutants (Belgaqua, Belgium) and Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) spoke at workshops on microplastics from tyre wear and from synthetic textiles respectively (publication in 2021).

Greet de Gueldre presented on behalf of EurEau at the MICRO conference, suggesting regulatory measures for microplastics in the environment and spelling out the research needs for our sector.

Pere Malgrat (AEAS, Spain) spoke about what actions can be taken in the sewer system and the treatment plant to reduce the impact of plastic waste at an event co-hosted by We Are Water.



# Micropollutants

**Components from products can end up in our groundwater and surface waters through their regular use or incorrect disposal.**

## EU Strategy for Zero Pollution

The Commission published the roadmap and the public consultation of the Zero Pollution [Strategy](#) in September. This initiative will result in an action plan which intends to tackle pollution in air, water and soil. We submitted [feedback](#) to the roadmap.

We [contributed](#) to the works of the Platform All Policies for a Healthy Europe on their policy paper on the Zero Pollution Strategy.

## WHAT WE WANT

**We want micropollutants in the environment to be dealt with in a holistic manner by all stakeholders involved along a products entire life cycle starting from strong precautionary and Control at Source measures.**

## Micropollutants – PFAS & PMT

One micropollutant that gained a lot of public attention this year is PFAS. PFAS are a diverse group of synthetic fluorinated compounds. The persistent nature of these substances means that they are very resistant to biodegradation and they are now ubiquitous in the environment, including-sometimes - water sources. Our [briefing note](#) details the knowledge that drinking water operators have acquired on these and why they are a problem. We addressed our concerns to the Commission in a meeting. We also published a [position paper](#) on PFAS and urban waste water. EurEau answered the [stakeholder consultation](#) on the Fitness Check of the EU legislation with regard to Endocrine Disruptors.

### EU Strategy Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

Chemicals were also on the Commissions agenda with gearing up for the Chemical Strategy for

Sustainability. This strategy proposes to reduce the risks associated with producing and using chemicals, simplifying and strengthening EU rules on chemicals.

The European Parliament adopted a Motion for a [Resolution](#). Many of the proposals supported the protection of Europe's water resources. EurEau provided amendments on the draft resolution.

We also submitted [feedback](#) to the Chemicals Strategy roadmap.

We answered the public consultation initiated by the competent authorities of the five Member States on PFAS

The final strategy came in autumn. We welcome the initiative, including the toxic-free hierarchy,

the extension of the generic risk assessment, actions on EDCs and chemicals mixtures, and PFAS. If fully implemented, this strategy will support a move towards zero pollution and circular societies. [Read more](#) or read the [action plan](#).

### Articles and other meetings

EurEau Secretary General Oliver Loebel represented us on the panel at the European Parliament's Intergroup for Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development meeting on the Chemicals Strategy in June.

We also met with colleagues in the chemicals sector to discuss ways of moving forward in a sustainable way.

We met with the Commission to discuss PFAS and the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

## Micropollutants - Pharmaceuticals

### Our activities in 2020

The European Parliament drafted a motion for resolution on the issue of Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (PiE), following the publication of the Commission's Strategic Approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment in 2019.

We contributed to the drafting of the European Parliament's MfR and are pleased with the calls for strengthening the use of the Control at Source and Polluter Pays Principles.

MEPs also recognise the importance of taking the life-cycle approach to pharmaceutical residues in order to protect the environment. You can read more of the 'EU matters' blog [here](#).

### The EU's Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe

The Pharmaceutical Strategy of Europe [Roadmap](#) came during the summer. This strategy aims to improve and accelerate patients' access to safe and affordable medicines and to support innovation in the EU pharmaceutical industry. It is an opportunity for the EU to step up water resource protection.

We answered the [roadmap](#) and the [public consultation](#). The Commission published the Strategy. We [reacted](#) to it.

The strategy was launched in November and builds on and complements the [Pharmaceuticals in the Environment \(PiE\) Strategy](#) adopted by the Commission in 2019.

We welcome that the EU is addressing the role of pharmaceuticals in our lives, as the strategy aims to tackle the issues facing the sector by setting a regulatory framework for the future and promoting research that meets patient needs. It will also take into account the weaknesses exposed by the coronavirus pandemic and factor in appropriate actions to strengthen the system.

### Articles and other meetings

Together with colleagues from All Policies for a Healthy Europe, a cross sectoral platform, we developed a [policy paper](#) for the Zero Pollution ambition, which was presented to the Commission.

“  
The strategy aims to improve and accelerate patients' access to safe and affordable medicines”

POSITION  
PAPERS &  
BRIEFING  
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Moving  
forward on  
PMT and vPvM  
substances

Treating  
micropollutants  
at the waste  
water treatment  
plant

PFAS in the  
urban water  
cycle

Holistic  
approach to  
addressing  
micropollutants  
- 2019 update  
of source  
control

## Micropollutants – Pesticides

**It is vital that we all have enough food for all at a fair price. The same is true for water. Using crop protection products in a sustainable way is therefore vital, as these can enter the water system through soil.**

### Our activities in 2020

We worked with the ECHA and EFSA on the development of a Guidance Document on the impact of water treatment processes on pesticides and biocides in EurEau member countries.

The Commission published a roadmap on the review of the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive. We submitted our [feedback](#).

We will work with the EU institutions on making the directive even more effective.

### WHAT WE WANT

**We want ambitious control at source measures included in European legislation that will minimise the release of micropollutants such as pesticides into the aquatic environment. If measures at the level of drinking water production or waste water treatment plants become necessary, Extended Producer Responsibility should apply.**

DWD final agreement (internal)

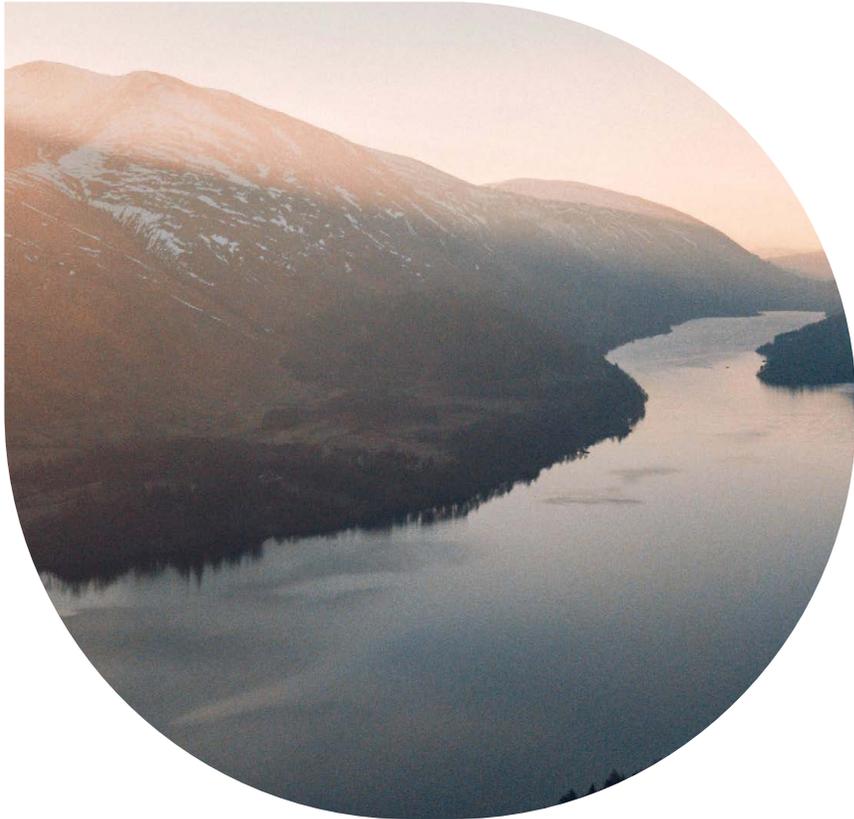
POSITION PAPERS & BRIEFING NOTES

Drinking Water Directive

Memorandum on the Drinking Water Directive

Deloitte Study on the Feasibility of Applying Extended Producer Responsibility to Micropollutants and Microplastics Emitted in the Aquatic Environment From Products During Their Life Cycle

# Industrial Emissions Directive and the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR)



**The Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) aims to achieve a high level of protection of human health and the environment by reducing harmful industrial emissions, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).**

## Our activities in 2020

The revision process was officially launched with the Commission's publication of its inception impact assessment. We submitted our [feedback](#), focusing on source-control, the protection of water resources, PFAS and sewage sludge.

We support a revision of the IED in order to better implement it, improve the application of the Control at Source Principle, avoid overlaps with the UWWTD especially in the reporting, and to enhance the water sectors participation in the Circular Economy by protecting the quality of sewage sludge. Any revision of the IED should include requirements for

the protection of water resources to avoid the deterioration in the quality of water bodies.

The Commission published the Inception Impact Assessment (IIA) on the revision of the Regulation on the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (E-PRTR). We submitted [feedback](#) and as well as our reaction to the IIA.

## WHAT WE WANT

**Reducing the release of potentially harmful contaminants into the environment benefits everyone. Using the Control at Source and Polluter Pays Principles, as well as extended producer responsibility, will protect us and the environment for years to come.**

## POSITION PAPERS & BRIEFING NOTES

**Holistic approach  
to addressing  
micropollutants  
- 2019 update of  
source control**

**Treating  
micropollutants  
at the wwtp**

# Water and agriculture



## WHAT WE WANT

**We call for a CAP that actively supports the transition of Europe’s agricultural sector towards a sustainable future and protects the quality and quantity of water resources by requiring full respect of Europe’s water legislation.**

## The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the Farm To Fork Strategy

**Water and agriculture are intrinsically linked and both sectors operate with direct benefits to and impacts on each other. Agriculture can impact negatively on both the quality and quantity of water resources and consequently on the availability of water that can be used for human consumption without the necessary treatment to comply with the regulatory framework.**

### Our activities in 2020

Following the approval of their negotiation mandates, Parliament and Council, supported by the Commission, launched the trilogue procedure with a view to agreeing on the post-2020 CAP. We are disappointed that both mandates fall short of the needs to protect water resources and, more generally, the ambitions of the Farm-to-Fork strategy. Several other activities were running in parallel and, hence, too late to impact the CAP negotiations.

The Commission published a [study](#) on the impact of the CAP on the quality and quantity of water resources. We contributed to it.

We answered the [public consultation](#) on the impact of farming on water.

We also provided input to the European Court of Auditor’s Sustainable Use of Water in Agriculture [report](#) which assesses to what extent EU farming policy protects Europe’s water resources (publication in 2021).

“Agriculture can impact negatively on both the quality and quantity of water resources”

### The Farm to Fork Strategy

The European Commission published its strategy for a fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food system – the Farm to Fork Strategy - in May. The strategy provides a holistic pathway towards a sustainable food value chain and should be supported and implemented. It is part of the Green Deal.

Water operators see this strategy as a milestone for the protection of Europe's water resources through the reduction of chemical pesticide use and nutrient losses as well as a more prudent use of antimicrobials.

Our reaction to the strategy is [here](#).

EurEau provided [feedback](#) to the roadmap and drafted a [paper](#). We work with the European Parliament to promote the protection of water resources.

### Articles

Oliver Loebel (EurEau) wrote about the EU's Farm 2 Fork Strategy in European Files.

Revision of  
the Common  
Agricultural  
Policy

Water and  
Agriculture

Cooperation  
projects  
between  
farmers and  
the water  
sector

POSITION  
PAPERS &  
BRIEFING  
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“

The strategy  
provides a holistic  
pathway towards  
a sustainable food  
value chain ”





## The European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection and the Critical Infrastructure Directive

**The European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection (EPCIP) is a framework under which various measures together aim to improve the protection of critical infrastructure in the EU.**

### Our activities in 2020

We participated in the European Commission evaluation study on the EPCIP.

We **responded** to the Commission's call for feedback to the Commission's EPCIP roadmap.

As a result of the evaluation, the Commission presented a proposal to replace the Critical Infrastructure Directive with a Directive on the

Resilience of Critical Entities. This new legislative proposal includes drinking water and waste water operators in its scope.

### Meetings

We participate in the European Commission's community of users on Secure, Safe and Resilient Societies and maintain contacts with the European Reference Network on Critical Infrastructure Protection.

### WHAT WE WANT

**Our members are committed to increasing our resilience to natural or man-made disasters. Water services should be recognised as essential services. However, this directive is an internal market act, while water services are provided locally with no or very little cross-border impacts. Water services should therefore be excluded from its scope.**



# Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS) Directive



## WHAT WE WANT

Water operators recognise the need to strengthen cyber security as a prerequisite to benefiting from the digitalisation of services. European rules should be proportionate to the risks, take account of the size of operators and recognise equivalent national requirements.

**Information is vital and should be secure. With the Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS) Directive, the EU will set a range of network and information security requirements which apply to operators of essential services such as water operators, and digital service providers.**

### Our activities in 2020

The Commission launched the revision of the Directive on Security of Network and Information Systems (NIS) with the publication of the roadmap. We [responded](#) to this.

We also [responded](#) to the public consultation and the targeted stakeholder consultation.

The Commission proposal (NIS-2) was tabled in December and substantially increases the requirements for essential services. Under the new proposal, not only drinking water, but also waste water services are covered.



# INSPIRE Directive

**The Infrastructure for Spatial Information (INSPIRE) Directive lays down a general framework for a spatial data infrastructure (SDI) for the purposes of European Community environmental policies and policies or activities which may affect the environment.**

## **Our activities in 2020**

We submitted a [response](#) to the Commission's roadmap.

In December, EurEau met with the European Commission to discuss the concerns of the water sector.

**POSITION  
PAPERS &  
BRIEFING  
NOTES**

**WHAT  
WE  
WANT**

**Water services are essential infrastructure and water operators work with highly sensitive information to keep us all safe and healthy. Excluding some elements of the infrastructure and data from public access will help ensure we stay protected.**

**The EU's  
INSPIRE  
Directive**

# Innovation



## WHAT WE WANT

**We want innovation programmes to reflect the concerns and challenges faced by water services.**

**Innovation is key to guaranteeing the affordability of safe, sustainable and resilient water services for the decades to come. Water service providers are well aware of the challenges and have identified a number of technological and non-technological areas requiring particular innovation efforts with a view to meeting the goals of the European Green Deal.**

### Our activities in 2020

We published our report *Innovating for a greener future: European water service priorities*, which lays out our sectors needs and should help policy makers in designing research and innovation programmes in a way that responds to the real needs of drinking water and waste water operators.

We answered the [public consultation](#) on the Horizon Europe First Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

We reacted to the roadmap on the bio economy partnership under Horizon Europe.

### Articles and other meetings

Bruno Tisserand (FP2E, France) , Chairperson of our Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs and Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) participated in the stakeholder advisory board meeting

of the Water Joint Programming Initiative (Water JPI) where a new partnership, Water4all, in the Future Horizon Europe was discussed.

Bertrand participated in the Water JPI Water4SDGs Knowledge Hub Workshop to present the EurEau research priorities in relation to the SDGs. Later in the year, he and the EurEau Secretary General, Oliver Loebel, presented our [report](#) to the Commission and linked it both to the SDGs and the Green Deal.

Alain Gillis, EurEau Vice President and Bertrand presented EurEau and our *Innovating for a greener future: European water service priorities report* to the board meeting of the SWDE and Walloon water sector coordination committee meeting.

# Investments and Taxonomy

**Sustainable investments are key to delivering the ambition of the EU Green Deal. These criteria may have a huge impact on the water sector since they will be used by the EU institutions and bodies, and possibly by IFIs (Independent Fiscal Institutions), in the future and may determine which investments are considered sustainable in the framework of national level Recovery Plans.**

## **Our activities in 2020**

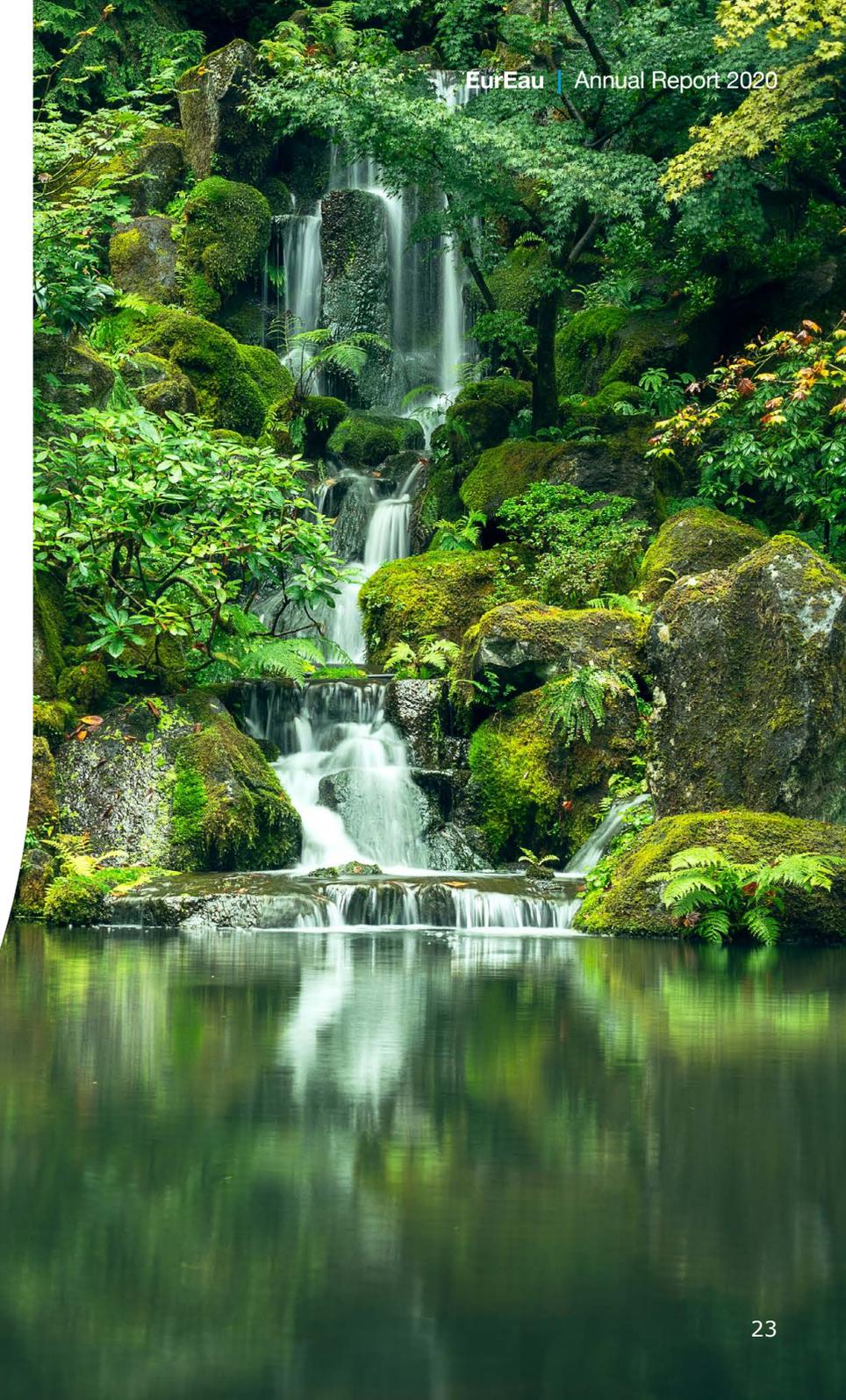
The European Commission presented a draft delegated act containing criteria for climate change adaptation and mitigation, some of which apply to the drinking and waste water operators. This follows up on the Taxonomy Regulation earlier in 2020. We submitted our [feedback](#).

## **Other meetings**

We met with the EIB and the European Commission to discuss the impact of the proposal on financing investments in water infrastructure.

**WHAT  
WE  
WANT**

**We want adequate investments that ensure the sustainability of water services.**



## Other Work



“  
 The sector calls of the support of the European Union to develop replicable measurement measures ”

We submitted feedback to the roadmaps for the review of the Renewable Energy Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive (RED and EED), based on our briefing note. Both directives set targets for the transformation of Europe’s energy production and consumption and can have a significant impact on the long-term investment strategies of water operators. Our feedback to the EED is [here](#) while our response to the RED is [here](#).

The Commission published its roadmap for a Methane Strategy which explicitly points at measures to be taken in waste water treatment and sludge treatment and use. We prepared [response](#). The strategy itself came in October. We disagree with parts of the strategy in that it only mentions the methane emissions from the waste water sector but ignores its substantial potential for biogas production.

The sector calls of the support of the European Union to develop replicable measurement measures, methods and establish baselines as a prerequisite to determining effective mitigation. Our views are [here](#).

The Biodiversity Strategy which aims to bring nature, farmers, business and consumers together for a competitive and sustainable future was adopted in May. It is part of the European Green Deal. We [commented](#) on the roadmap. We submitted [feedback](#) to the inception impact assessment on the EU nature restoration targets.

The European Commission released the roadmap on the New Soil Strategy, which aims to design a comprehensive and coherent policy framework to protect land and soil. From our point of view, the strategy is missing key aspects linking healthy soils and water services. For example, the key role of healthy soils in groundwater protection is not addressed. It also refers to sewage sludge only to mention its possible pollution potential omitting entirely the multiple benefits it can bring (nutrients, organic matter). EurEau’s answer can be found [here](#) and more reaction is [here](#).

### Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – keeping our water affordable

A January 2020 Deloitte study on producers' responsibility to prevent micropollutants from entering the environment finds that the EU should better implement existing legislation to keep our water affordable for everyone.

The study, commissioned by EurEau, confirms that Control at Source measures should be better implemented in the EU in line with the requirements set out in Article 191.2 of the EU Treaty. Where this is not sufficient, legislation should introduce fair and effective EPR schemes.

Water service providers should not have to bear the cost if additional treatments become necessary in order to remove micropollutants and microplastics. The cost of this is ultimately passed on to the water consumer, affecting affordability.

The report has been used in meetings with stakeholders throughout the year including in the German Presidency conference on the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

It is also widely used and cited by stakeholders. The European Commission announced a feasibility study for the introduction of EPR in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. We are pleased to see the Commission's announcement. You can read the [whole report](#). Our comments on the report are [here](#).

### Other meetings

We work with many stakeholders in our day to day work. On top of regular meetings with these to develop our main topics, there are plenty of other bodies and groups that we regularly meet with to continue our work on water-related issues.

Bertrand and Caroline visited Irish Water in January to hear about the projects they are working on.

EurEau met with the European Commissioner for the Environment, Virginijus Sinkevičius early in the year to discuss the role played by water services to realise the Commission's political agenda.

Our communications managers met online in April to discuss issues of key interest to the sector, including attracting workers and keeping customers informed.

Bertrand represented us at the Task Force on Water of the European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Council that reflects on the water and energy nexus in the context of climate change, where he presented our Briefing Note on Energy.

We continued our work with the policy platform 'All Policies for a Healthy Europe (AP4HE) throughout the year, including meetings on the Zero Pollution Ambition, hosted by MEP Pietikainen (EPP/Finland), and joined by MEP Paulus (Greens/Germany) and MEP Cerdas (S&D/Portugal). Another meeting heard from the new deputy Director General of DG SANTE, Claire Bury. EurEau President Claudia Castell-Exner and Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) represent us in this forum.

“

Water service providers should not have to bear the cost if additional treatments”



# Water and the SARS-CoV-2 virus

**Water service providers across Europe worked hard to provide us all with safe and clean drinking water while ensuring effective waste water services throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.**

We established a Crisis Platform to collect information and exchange experience to the pandemic from across Europe. The Platform included national water service providers from outside our membership, reflecting the severity of the crisis. We used the information collected to inform the Commission of our sectors response. We issued a [statement](#) on water services and Covid-19.

We are involved in the European Commission/JRC sampling campaign to assess the feasibility for an EU-wide Wastewater Monitoring System for SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance. It was a particularly important research question especially to see if it is possible to relate sewage analysis with epidemiological data and how this information could be used by health authorities to better understand the circulation of the virus in the population including asymptomatic people. The work is followed by Angel Villanueva (AEAS, Spain) and Bertrand Vallet (EurEau).

We encourage everyone, everywhere to only flush the 3P's (pee, poop and toilet paper) to help keep our services flowing smoothly.



# Position papers and briefing notes 2020

Briefing note  
on cooperation  
between water  
operators and  
farmers

Briefing note on  
climate change  
and water  
services:  
adapting to the  
consequences

Comments on  
the Deloitte  
EPR study

Position paper  
on PFAS in the  
urban water  
cycle

Position paper  
on overflows  
from collecting  
systems

Briefing note  
(internal)  
Waste water  
treatment  
– sludge  
management

Briefing note:  
What is a sewer  
network

Briefing note:  
Waste water  
and storm  
water networks

Briefing note  
on the impact  
of drought on  
drinking water

Briefing note  
on PFAS and  
drinking water

Briefing note on  
Deterioration/  
The Wesser  
Ruling

Briefing note  
on Biocides  
compliance

Briefing note  
on the impact  
assessment of  
the Drinking  
Water Directive  
(Internal)

We published many position papers and briefing notes that we will use to advance consumer and environmental protection.

## New members

### **We had three new member associations joining EurEau this year.**

UWSSORB, the Bulgarian union of waste water operators, joined EurEau, replacing BWA. Vassil Trenev joins the EurEau General Assembly for Bulgaria.

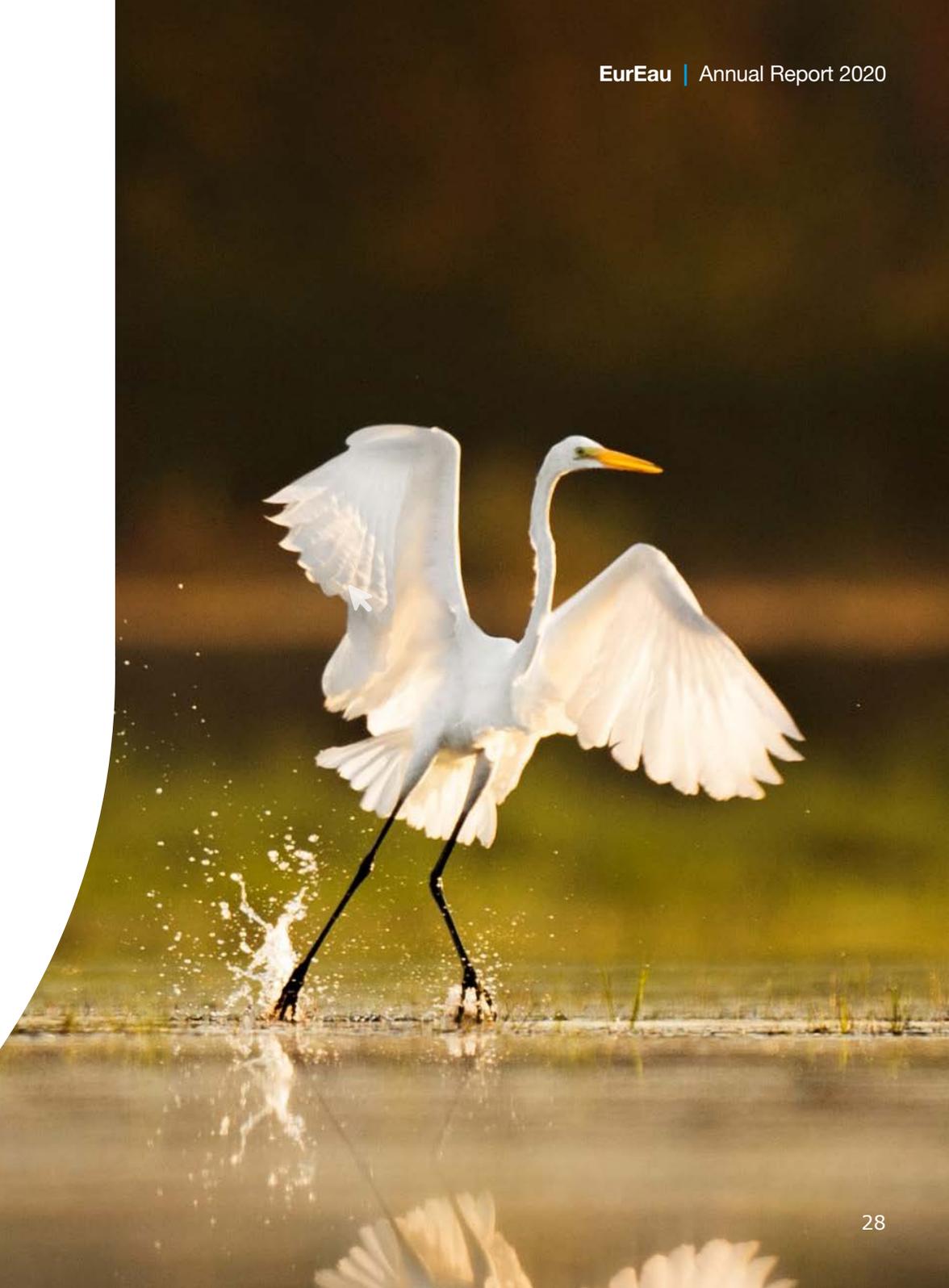
Irish Water consolidates the water and waste water operations and services of the 31 Irish local authorities together. They join EurEau representing Ireland together with the City and County Managers Association (CCMA).

Verband Schweizer Abwasser- und Gewässerschutzfachleute (VSA) is the Swiss waste water association. They represent Switzerland in EurEau, together with SVGW. Martin Sager sits on our General Assembly, replacing André Oslchewshi.

This brings our membership to 34 organisations in 29 countries.

Iacovos Papaïacovou who represented Cyprus in our General Assembly for many years retired in 2020 and was replaced by Sophocles Christoudoulides.

Malta appointed Ivan Falzon as their EurEau General Assembly representative.



# EurEau meetings

Our Joint Working Groups – Innovation, Micropollutants, Reuse, Value of Water Services, and the Water Framework Directive – were also active this year, meeting several times to advance on their themes.

EurEau’s Executive Committee met six times over the year, all of these were on line.

Our General Assembly met twice, also virtually.

We hope to see our colleagues ‘in reality’ in 2021. Thank you to all those who volunteered to host meetings for us over these years, and under these unknown, changing and challenging circumstances.

### Water Lobby Group

The Water Lobby Group is an informal group made up of professionals working for EurEau’s members in the fields of European affairs,

advocacy, corporate affairs and international affairs. The group meets monthly and is coordinated by the EurEau Secretariat. We encourage participants from national associations to attend. The group is essential to our work on legislative files, such as the Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

## We held nine committee meetings in 2020

**23-24 January**  
**Dublin**  
Waste water (EU2)

**27-28 February**  
**On line**  
Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3)

**5-6 March**  
**On line**  
Drinking water (EU1)

**14-15 May**  
**On line**  
Waste water

**4-5 June**  
**On line**  
Economics and Legal Affairs

**18-19 June**  
**On line**  
Drinking water

**1 October**  
**On line**  
Economics and Legal Affairs

**8-9 October**  
**On line**  
Waste water

**14-15 October**  
**On line**  
Drinking water

## Participation in research projects

Research projects are an important part of our members' work. We participate on several advisory boards. These are the research projects that we contributed to in 2020.

### Trust

Jan Peter van der Hoek (Vewin, the Netherlands)

### TreatRec

Sajariina Toivikko (FIWA, Finland)

### Watenergy Cycle

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

CC: Caroline Greene (EurEau)

### JRC (SARS Cov-2 monitoring in waste water

Angel Villanueva Blasco (Aquatec-Suez, AEAS, Spain)

Communication: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

## European Parliament Intergroup

### Working group 'Water Management of the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development'

The Intergroup brings together Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from all political groups and Parliamentary Committees to find sustainable solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our time. We support it and sit on the advisory board.

Oliver Loebel (EurEau) spoke on sustainable chemicals in June and on the role of water in the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change.



## Media and outreach

**Our annual report for 2019 was published in June, highlighting some of our work on drinking water, water reuse, and Extended Producer Responsibility, to name a few. 2019 brought a lot of change and opportunity for the water sector. You can read our review [here](#).**

We also published the updated [report](#) on the Governance of Water Services in Europe, illustrating the diversity of management models, organisational structures, tasks and responsibilities involved in bringing safe water services. Our report on [Innovating for the Greener Future](#) was also published during the year.

2020 also saw EurEau launch podcasts. Water Matters introduces topics from drinking water to micropollutants, to the future of water. You can listen to it [here](#).

We talked to EurEau President [Claudia Castell-Exner](#) about her experience of the water sector for International Women's Day on March 8.

To mark World Water Day on March 21, we looked at this year's theme of [Climate Change and water](#).

[Oliver Loebel](#), EurEau Secretary General, appeared in iAgua magazine speaking about Europe's water legislation.

Revolve Media [published](#) a piece on the new politics, faces and policies in the Commission.

Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) spoke to [Cirkulation](#) about the Drinking Water Directive. [ENDs](#) also covered drinking water.

Michael Bentvelsen (Vewin and Unie van Waterschappen, the Netherlands) wrote about EPR in [Water News Europe](#).

# The team



**Caroline Greene**  
Communications  
Manager

**Carla Chiaretti**  
Head of Policy

**Oliver Loebel**  
Secretary General

**Louise Hoogenhout**  
Office Manager

**Bertrand Vallet**  
Policy Officer –  
water services



# Looking forward to 2021

2020 threw away the rulebook and we found ourselves looking at life in a whole new way. Welcome to 2021, with environmental protection foremost on the Commission's agenda, even building the economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic as a green one.

The EU Green Deal offers significant opportunities for our sector. Its supporting legislation will impact – positively – on all Europeans. These will cover mitigating climate change within the next 10 years to improving recycling and reuse of many of the products and materials we use daily. As part of the Green Deal, the Commission published many key strategies and supporting legislative files last year with more coming in 2021.

One of them is the Zero Pollution Action Plan will also make a significant change for all of us, with promises from the Commission to secure healthy ecosystems and a healthy living environment for Europeans through reducing air, soil and water pollution. A significant share of this

will be achieved through the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability.

All these new developments led us to launch an update of our own strategy. Through intensive dialogue with all our members, we are redefining our challenges, priorities and working methods. Our new strategy is built around the Green Deal opportunities. At the same time, it aims to respond to the challenges on our way towards a zero carbon, zero pollution and circular society. We must work towards a regulatory environment that enables water operators to become sustainability forerunners. We will present the revised strategy to our May General Assembly for approval.

It is already clear today that much of our resources and efforts will continue to be dedicated to the review of EU water legislation, such as the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Sewage Sludge Directive. Other EU acts, i.e. the Industrial Emissions Directive, the Resilience of Critical Entities Directive and the NIS Directive will also remain high on our list.

Last but not least, we will strengthen our involvement in the development of Taxonomy criteria for drinking water and waste water services. While supporting this tool, it will be particularly important to obtain requirements that take account of the differences in local situations.

In EurEau, we work with the EU institutions and our stakeholders to shape legislation that protects people and planet. We are proud of the work we do and of the relations we hold with our colleagues. Water services are essential and protecting these for our future is vital. Our waters' health is our social and economic wealth.

Water services were maintained even at the worst moments of the Covid-19 pandemic. Many people take this for granted as they are unaware of the complexity of the services we deliver. This is why we are working to help our stakeholders realise the value of our water services.

Raising awareness of the issues surrounding the challenges facing us is a core part of our work. A dedicated group of members is developing a set of information sheets which will be widely circulated.

Our work simply cannot be done without our members who are the pillars that support our endeavours. Their dedication, experience and generosity in sharing this not only with us but with colleagues is – like water – priceless. They allow us to be a valued knowledge partner. We look forward to seeing you all again in the near future to thank you for your contributions.

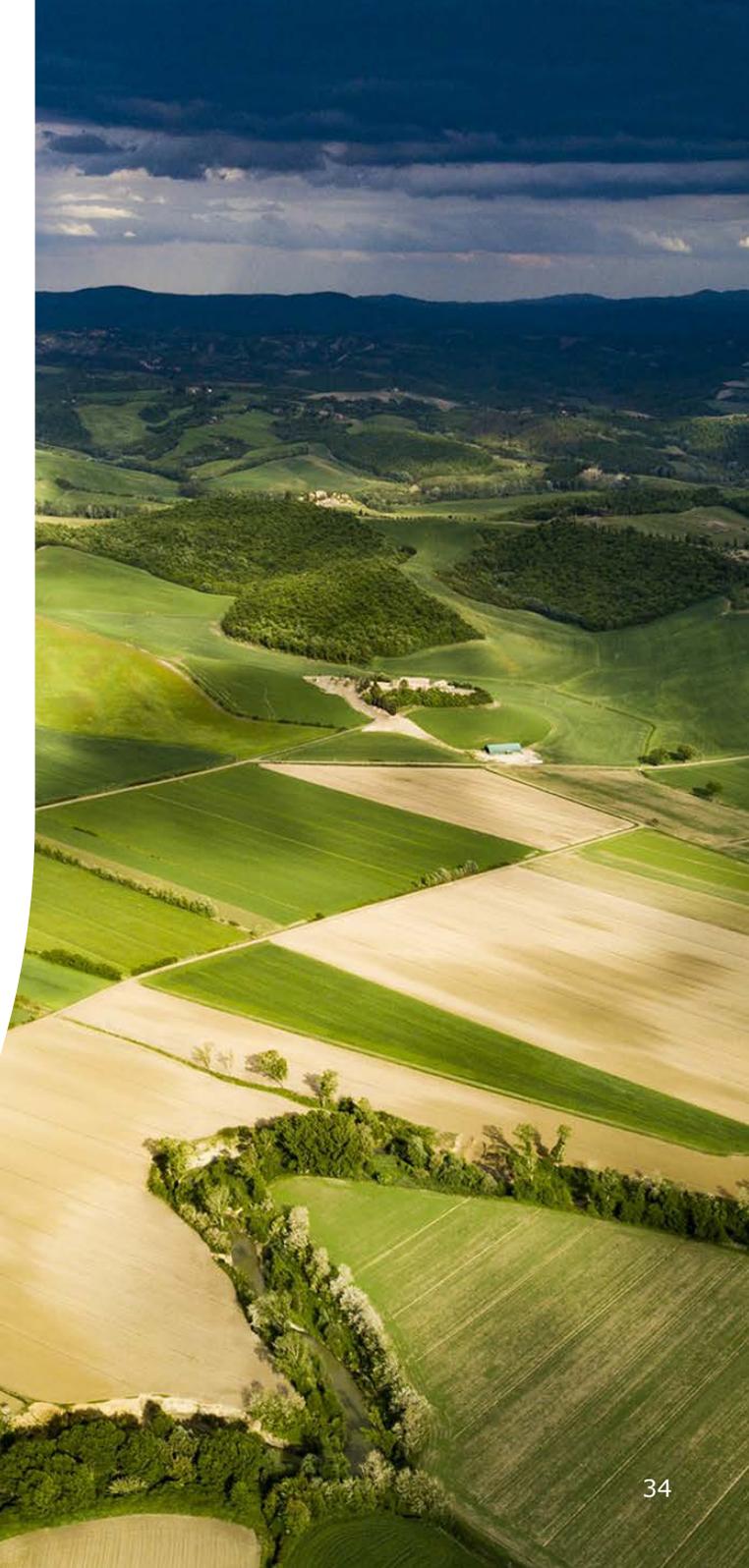
We would also like to sincerely thank all the people working in water treatment plants who brought us safe and reliable services in the extenuating conditions that 2020 brought.

We look forward to 2021 and all it will bring.

Because water matters.



**OLIVER LOEBEL**  
EUREAU SECRETARY GENERAL



# Participation in European Commission Expert and Advisory Groups

Our experts attend the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) meetings of the Water Framework Directive and the Expert Groups meetings of the Bathing Water Directive, Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

These fora can be attended exclusively by European umbrella federations, such as EurEau<sup>1</sup>.

## European Commission Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy (WFD CIS) (2019-2021)

### Strategic Coordination Group

FP: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)

### ECOSTAT

CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)

### Chemicals

FP: Greet de Gueldre (Belgaqua, Belgium)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)  
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)  
CC: Michael Bentvelsen (Unie van Waterschappen, the Netherlands)  
CC: Wennemar Cramer (Vewin, the Netherlands)

### Chemicals

**SG on effect-based tools**  
FP: Magali Dechesne (FP2E/FR)

### Floods

FP: Michael Bentvelsen (Unie van Waterschappen, the Netherlands)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)  
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### Data Information and Sharing (former Reporting)

FP: -  
CC: Dominique Gatel (FP2E, France)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)  
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### Groundwater

FP: Claus Vansgaard (DANVA, Denmark)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)  
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)  
CC: Rob Eijsink (Vewin, the Netherlands)  
CC: Alena Trancikova (AVS, Slovakia)  
CC: Wennemar Cramer (Vewin, the Netherlands)

### ATG Water Reuse

FP: Francesca Pizza (Utilitalia, Italy)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)  
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### Task Force on Economics

Klara Ramm (IGWP, Poland)  
Ignacio Lozano (AEAS, Spain)

### ATG Article 4.7 guidance

FP: Ovidiu Gabor (ARA, Romania)  
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)

### ATG Hydromorphology

CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)  
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)



<sup>1</sup> Situation as of 15.02.21

## European Commission Expert & Working Groups

### **DWD expert group**

FP: Eric Chauveheid (Belgaqua, Belgium)  
CC: Dominique Gatel (FP2E, France)

### **UWWTD expert group**

FP: Jean-Pierre Silan (Belgaqua, BE)  
CC: Michael Bentvelsen (Unie van Waterschappen, the Netherlands)  
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### **BWD expert group**

FP: Alejandro de la Sota (acting; AEAS, Spain)  
CC: Bruno Tisserand (FP2E, France)  
CC: Benoit Hecq (Belgaqua, BE)

### **Fertiliser Regulation expert group**

FP: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### **ERNICIP**

Miquel Paraira Faus (AEAS, Spain)  
Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

## Other bodies EurEau participates in

### **EIP on Water Task Force**

Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### **Water JPI**

Bruno Tisserand (FP2E, France)  
Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### **OECD Governance Initiative**

Manfred Eisenhut (ÖVGW, Austria)

### **ChemSec Business Group**

Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden)

### **HELCOM**

Paula Lindell (FIWA, Finland)

### **All Policies for a Healthy Europe Initiative**

Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)

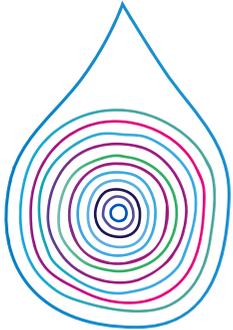
### **Tyre and Road Wear Particles Platform**

High-level group: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)  
Technical WG: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

### **Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Hydrocarbons BREF European Benchmarking Co-operation (Board)**

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

# Appendix



EurEau

## EurEau Executive Committee 2021

### EurEau President

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner; DVGW (Germany)

### Vice Presidents

Alain Gillis, Belgaqua (Belgium)  
Bruno Tisserand, FP2E (France)

### EurEau Executive Committee Members

Alain Gillis, Belgaqua (Belgium)  
(EurEau Treasurer)

Osmo Seppälä, FIWA - Finnish Water Utilities Association (Finland)

Klara Ramm, IGWP - Izba Gospodarcza Wodociagi Polskie - Polish Waterworks Chamber of Commerce (Poland)

Mircea Macri, Asociatia Romana a Apei (Romania)

Mariano Blanco Orozco, AEAS (Spain)

Iztok Rozman, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (Slovenia)

Stuart Colville, Water UK (United Kingdom)

## EurEau Committee Chairpeople

### Chairperson of the EurEau Committee on Drinking Water (EU1)

Tom Leahy; Irish Water (Ireland)

### Co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Waste Water (EU2)

Michaël Bentvelsen; Unie van Waterschappen (The Netherlands)

Sarah Gilman; Water UK (United Kingdom)

### Chairperson of the EurEau Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3)

Bruno Tisserand; FP2E (France)

## EurEau member associations and General Assembly Representatives 2021



### AUSTRIA

Raimund Paschinger

ÖVGW – Österreichische Vereinigung für das Gas- und Wasserfach | Austrian Association for Gas and Water

[www.ovgw.at](http://www.ovgw.at)

ÖWAV – Österreichischer Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband | Austrian Water and Waste Management Association

[www.oewav.at](http://www.oewav.at)



BELGAQUA

### BELGIUM

Alain Gillis

Belgaqua – Belgische Federatie voor de Watersector | Fédération Belge du Secteur de l'Eau | Belgian Federation for the Water Sector

[www.belgaqua.be](http://www.belgaqua.be)



### BULGARIA

Vassil Trenev

Съюз на ВИК операторите в Република България | Union of Waste Water Operators in the Republic of Bulgaria

[www.srvikbg.com](http://www.srvikbg.com)



### CROATIA

Andrej Marochini

GVIK – Hrvatska grupacija vodovoda i kanalizacije | Croatian Water and Waste Water Association



Cyprus Water & Sewerage Boards Association

### CYPRUS

Sophocles Christodoulides

Σύνδεσμος Συμβουλιών Ύδρευσης-Αποχέτευσης Κύπρου | Cyprus Association of Water and Sewerage Boards

[www.ssyak.com.cy](http://www.ssyak.com.cy)



### CZECH REPUBLIC

Ondrej Benes

SOVAK CR – Sdružení oboru vodovodů a kanalizací České republiky | Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic

[www.sovak.cz](http://www.sovak.cz)



### DENMARK

Carl-Emil Larsen

DANVA - Dansk Vand og Spildevandsforening | Danish Water and Waste Water Association

[www.danva.dk](http://www.danva.dk)



### ESTONIA

Vahur Tarkmees

EVEL - Eesti Vee-ettevõtete Liit  
Estonian Water Works Association

[www.evel.ee](http://www.evel.ee)



## FINLAND

Osmo Seppälä  
 FIWA - Vesilaitosyhdistys - Vattenverksförening  
 Finnish Water Utilities Association  
[www.vvy.fi](http://www.vvy.fi)



## FRANCE

Denis Bonvillan  
 FP2E - Fédération Professionnelle des Entreprises  
 de l'Eau | Professional Federation of Water  
 Companies  
[www.fp2e.org](http://www.fp2e.org)



## GERMANY

Gunda Röstel  
 BDEW - Bundesverband der Energie- und  
 Wasserwirtschaft | German Association of Energy  
 and Water Industries  
[www.bdew.de](http://www.bdew.de)

DVGW - Deutscher Verein des Gas- und  
 Wasserfaches e.V | German Technical and  
 Scientific Association for Gas and Water  
[www.dvgw.de](http://www.dvgw.de)



## GREECE

Markos Sklivaniotis  
 ΕΝΩΣΗ ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΩΝ ΥΔΡΕΥΣΗΣ  
 ΑΠΟΧΕΤΕΥΣΗΣ - Ε.Δ.Ε.Υ.Α.  
 EDEYA - Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises  
 for Water Supply and Sewage  
[www.edeya.gr](http://www.edeya.gr)



## HUNGARY

Edit Nagy  
 MaVíz - Magyar Víziközmű Szövetség  
 Hungarian Water Utility Association  
[www.maviz.org](http://www.maviz.org)



## IRELAND

Tom Leahy  
 CCMA - The County and City Management  
 Association

Irish Water  
[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)



## ITALY

Luigi Joseph Del Giacco  
 Utilitalia - Associazione delle imprese idriche  
 energetiche e ambientali | Federation of Energy,  
 Water and Environmental Services  
[www.utilitalia.it](http://www.utilitalia.it)



## LUXEMBOURG

Georges Kraus  
 ALUSEAU - Association Luxembourgeoise des  
 Services d'Eau | Luxembourg Association of  
 Water Services  
[www.aluseau.lu](http://www.aluseau.lu)



## MALTA

Ivan Falzon  
 Water Services Corporation  
[www.wsc.com.mt](http://www.wsc.com.mt)



## NORWAY

Arne Haarr  
 Norsk Vann | Norwegian Water  
[www.norskvann.no](http://www.norskvann.no)



## POLAND

Klara Ramm  
 IGWP - Izba Gospodarcza Wodociągi Polskie  
 Polish Waterworks Chamber of Commerce  
[www.igwp.org.pl](http://www.igwp.org.pl)



## PORTUGAL

Rui Marreiros  
 APDA - Associação Portuguesa de  
 Distribuição e Drenagem de Águas  
 Portuguese Association of Water  
 and Wastewater Services  
[www.apda.pt](http://www.apda.pt)



## ROMANIA

Mircea-Valentin Macri  
 ARA - Asociația Română a Apei  
 Romanian Water Association  
[www.ara.ro](http://www.ara.ro)



## SERBIA; (observer status)

Dalibor Joknic  
 CCIS - Privredna Komora Srbije  
 Chamber of Commerce and  
 Industry of Serbia  
[www.pks.rs](http://www.pks.rs)



## SLOVAKIA

Vladimír Jakub  
 AVS - Asociácia Vodárenských  
 Spoločností | Association of  
 Water Companies  
[www.avssr.sk](http://www.avssr.sk)



## SLOVENIA

Iztok Rozman  
 GZS-ZKG - Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije  
 – Zbornica komunalnega gospodarstva  
 Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije  
 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia  
 – Chamber of Public Utilities/Chamber of Public  
 Utilities  
[www.gzs.si](http://www.gzs.si)



## SPAIN

Mariano Blanco Orozco  
 AEAS - Asociación Española de Abastecimientos  
 de Agua y Saneamiento | Spanish Water and  
 Waste Water Association  
[www.aeas.es](http://www.aeas.es)

## Svenskt Vatten

### SWEDEN

Pär Dalhielm  
 Svenskt Vatten | The Swedish Water and Waste  
 Water Association  
[www.svensktvatten.se](http://www.svensktvatten.se)



## SWITZERLAND

Martin Sager

SSIGE / SVGW - Société Suisse de l'Industrie du Gaz et des Eaux | Schweizerischer Verein des Gas- und Wasserfaches | Società Svizzera dell'Industria del Gas e delle Acque | Swiss Gas and Water Industry Association

[www.svgw.ch](http://www.svgw.ch)

VSA - Association suisse des professionnels de la protection des eaux | Verband Schweizer Abwasser- und Gewässerschutzfachleute | Associazione svizzera dei professionisti della protezione delle acque | Swiss Water Association

[www.vsa.ch](http://www.vsa.ch)



## THE NETHERLANDS

Hans de Groene

UvW - Unie van Waterschappen

[www.dutchwaterauthorities.com](http://www.dutchwaterauthorities.com)

Vewin - Vereniging van drinkwaterbedrijven in Nederland

[www.vewin.nl](http://www.vewin.nl)



## UNITED KINGDOM

Stuart Colville

Water UK

[www.water.org.uk](http://www.water.org.uk)



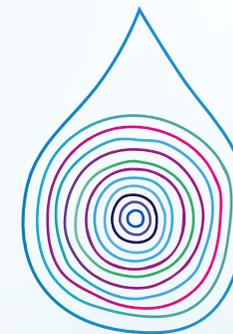
### About EurEau

EurEau is the voice of Europe's water sector. We represent drinking water and waste water operators from 29 countries in Europe, from both the private and the public sectors.

Our members are 34 national associations of water services. At EurEau, we bring national water professionals together to agree European water sector positions regarding the management of water quality, resource efficiency and access to water for Europe's citizens and businesses. The EurEau secretariat is based in Brussels.

With a direct employment of around 476,000 people, the European water sector makes a significant contribution to the European economy.





**EurEau**

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