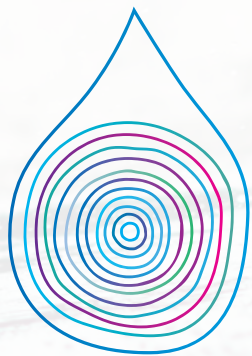


EurEau **ANNUAL REVIEW 2016**



EurEau



INTRODUCTION FROM THE PRESIDENT



As the EU institutions prepare for reviewing Europe's water legislation, so do we.

Over the next five years, we will have the opportunity to significantly improve the legislation that protects our water resources. The legislation in place has served us well and now we can further it, ensuring that we always have access to safe, clean and wholesome water.

We began our preparations for this legislative review this year, with the Joint Working Group on the Water Framework Directive holding its first meeting.

We worked on a wide range of key issues, from fertilisers to pharmaceuticals, reuse, recovery of costs and resource protection. We proved that water has many facets, beyond the obvious.

We continue to work with our partners in the EU institutions, NGOs and manufacturers to shape robust water policies that protect our health, environment and society. I know from meeting with high level policy makers in the EU institutions that our expertise is respected and valued.

We grew in membership in 2016, welcoming the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia – Chamber of Public Utilities as our 32nd member and extending our membership to 29 countries.

But our success is down to the dedicated professionals who make up our membership. Our strength and reputation relies on the expertise and experience that you bring. You, together with the EurEau Secretariat, make others aware of us and our positions, so thank you for all your hard work this year. I look forward to working alongside you in 2017.

Speaking of 2017, it promises to be an exciting year for our sector with the revision of the Drinking Water Directive, proposals due for reusing water and preparations going ahead for the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive evaluation.

Everybody knows that 'Water Matters'. We will continue to work with our members and stakeholders to shape the EU legislation that protects our water resources and sets the framework for sustainable, reliable and robust water services, now and for future generations.

Bruno Tisserand
EurEau President



Out of the many topics we addressed, here are four that were especially pertinent.

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



List of positions

- **Position paper on dental amalgam**

 [click here](#)

- **Water and the Circular Economy**

 [click here](#)

- **Phosphorus in sewage sludge**

 [click here](#)

What is the Circular Economy Package?

In December 2015, the European Commission adopted the Circular Economy Package (CEP) to help European businesses and consumers use and recycle resources more sustainably. The proposed actions will bring benefits for both the environment and the economy by extracting the maximum value and use from raw materials, products and waste, while promoting energy savings.

The first deliverable for the CEP was the revised Fertiliser Regulation, which opens the European market to organic fertilisers. The other important piece of legislation will be the legislative proposal for minimum quality requirements for water reuse which is due in late 2017.

Why is it important for EurEau?

EurEau members strive to implement the circular economy principles in their operations.

Water is a precious. Waste water is a source of secondary materials, energy and can be reused.

We strongly encouraged including the recovery of nutrients through the revision of the Fertiliser Regulation, and the measures regarding water reuse. We are working to establish the criteria that would qualify struvite and sewage sludge ash to become input material for fertiliser production.

Sewage sludge is currently excluded as an input material for compost and digestate from the European Commission's proposal. We are working with the European Parliament to remove this exclusion. It is important for the water sector that all disposal options are open. This will allow sewage sludge to be disposed of according to local needs and requirements. The agricultural use of sewage sludge in certain countries needs to be maintained but if the quality of the sludge is good enough and it is possible to produce compost or digestate, these products should access the internal market. This would give the European water sector a strong signal to invest in the recovery of nutrients from sewage sludge.

The proposal of addressing water scarcity through the reuse of treated waste water in safe and cost-effective conditions is also a major step to maintaining water resources for all. It is a good tool to support water

reuse projects and raise the image of reclaimed water with the end-users by ensuring its quality and safety. In June 2016, the European Commission adopted the guidelines on water reuse to help decision makers to implement water reuse projects safely. While the document is complex, we are pleased that the main steps towards implementing reuse projects at European level are now set out in one place.

The second part of the European Commission's Action Plan is the development of minimum quality standards for water reuse in irrigation and groundwater recharge. These minimum quality requirements are under development by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and should result in a legislative proposal. It is important that these requirements guarantee both safety for human health and the environment and the economic feasibility of water reuse. There is no obligation to use them if there is no water scarcity.

What did EurEau do?

The new Fertiliser Regulation was proposed by the European Commission in March 2016. Sewage sludge was excluded as an input material for compost and digestate from the proposal, despite the fact that most sewage sludge in Europe would comply with the proposed quality requirements. We approached Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) in charge of the dossier – Elisabetta Gardini (EPP; ENVI Committee) and Jan Huitema (ALDI; AGRI Committee) to present our views and we will continue to work with them in 2017 to make sure that the proposal does not completely exclude sewage sludge from the regulation.

At the same time as the regulation approval, the STRUBIAS group was formed by the JRC to establish the criteria for struvite, ash-based products and biochar to be used as input material for fertilisers, in the scope of the new Fertiliser Regulation. Jan-Evert van Veldhoven and Lex Lelijveld (substitute) from our Dutch member Unie Van Waterschappen are the EurEau representatives in this group. It is very important for the water sector that the criteria defined by the JRC correspond to the quality we are able to provide to allow for an effective uptake.

We met officials at the highest levels in the European Commission to make the case for water reuse to be included in the CEP. This included EurEau President Bruno Tisserand meeting DG Environment director general, Mr. Daniel Calleja-Crespo. Bruno also met with officials in charge of the Fertiliser Regulation in DG Internal Market, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG Grow) to put forward our point of view on the proposal.

We worked with the European Sustainable Phosphorous Platform (ESPP) on phosphorous recovery, which allowed us to meet other stakeholders. The EurEau Committee on Waste Water (EU2) produced position papers on the Fertiliser Regulation. Our arguments were generally well received by MEPs, who learned about the importance of recycling nutrients from sewage sludge and how the Fertiliser Regulation could help to improve this.

On water reuse, we organised a meeting of the working group 'Water and Agriculture', which is part of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development under the chairmanship of Michel Dantin MEP. This meeting took place in January 2016.

Pier Paolo Abis (Utilitalia), a member of EU2, represents EurEau in the

European Commission's CIS Ad-hoc Task Group on Water Reuse.

This group supports DG Environment in the development of the guidelines and the minimum quality requirements. The ad-hoc task group allows us to interact with the European Commission officials to provide technical and political positions to shape the proposal towards the water sector objectives, and is open to umbrella federations only. Pier Pablo is supported by the EurEau Joint Working Group on Water Reuse.

Communications, stakeholder engagement and outreach

EurEau President Bruno Tisserand recorded a short video with EurActiv to highlight the importance of water reuse and underline that it is safe to use in certain, specific instances. In the video, Bruno encourages the EU institutions to establish EU-wide common minimum quality standards for reuse that protect both people's health and the environment.

Our committee on waste water – EU2 – was active in the media on various aspects of the circular economy. Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten) wrote a blog post for EurActiv on the

benefits of banning the use of dental amalgam to improve sludge quality. Brussels' media received a press release from us to mark the European Parliament's ENVI committee adoption of the compromise package on article 10 of the Mercury Regulation. Writing in Pan European Networks, Bruno Tisserand explored the impact of the circular economy, particularly on waste water and nutrient recovery.

For World Water Day we encouraged the European Commission and EU Member States to invest in updating and developing Europe's water infrastructure if it wants to grow the European economy and create jobs.

Future

We are now working to ensure that the proposals made by the European Commission are aligned with the water sector's needs. We will continue meeting with MEPs to gain support for the proposal. We will also engage with stakeholders to strengthen our position and participate in conferences on the topic.

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# DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE EVALUATION AND REVIEW



## List of positions and comments

- **EurEau feedback on policy options – Drinking Water Directive review**

 [click here](#)

- **Transparency in water governance and water services**

 [click here](#)

- **Making the human right to water and sanitation a reality in Europe**

 [click here](#)

- **Access to water and measures in case of nonpayment**

 [click here](#)

In 2015 the European Commission started the evaluation of the 1998 Drinking Water Directive (DWD). We participated in the two stakeholder meetings organised by them.

## Why is it important for EurEau?

The DWD is a piece of EU legislation of paramount importance since, thanks to its implementation over the past 19 years, citizens across Europe enjoy clean and wholesome tap water 24 hours/day. The review of the DWD is intended to improve the current legislative framework, preparing it for the new challenges faced by water operators and public authorities.

## What did EurEau do?

Our 2016 work on the evaluation and review process of the Drinking Water Directive was very extensive. At the beginning of the year, we expressed our views on the policy options presented by the consultants carrying out the DWD impact assessment study, at the DWD Expert Group meeting in January.

We co-organised a round table in January, and the second symposium on 'Materials and Products in contact with Drinking Water', (May) bringing together the European Commission, national regulators, materials producers and water operators.

EurEau provided data to the European Commission's consortium working on the 'Study on Materials in Contact with Drinking Water: Support to the Implementation and Further Development of the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)'.

We sent comments to the European Commission for their 'User guide on materials coming into contact with drinking water at home'.

Our drinking water experts worked on the quality parameters of Annex I of the DWD, commented on the background documents developed by the WHO and presented at their stakeholder workshop in September.

We produced several briefings to map the situation in various countries on the topics of transparency in water governance and water services, making the human right to water and sanitation a reality in Europe and access to water and measures in case of non-payment.

The reports the European Commission will use in conducting its impact assessment study were finalised at the end of 2016.

## Future

The European Commission highlighted the political relevance attached to drinking water by including the legislative revision of the DWD in its 2017 Work Programme. Ultimately the proposal will probably be adopted by the Commission at the very end of 2017, submitted to the European Parliament and to the Council of the EU that will co-legislate up to March 2019 when the 8th legislature of the European Parliament will come to an end due to the European elections to be held in May 2019.

In 2017 we will continue to support the European Commission's legislative revision of the DWD. We will make sure that MEPs and Member States representatives are well informed about the status of the DWD implementation based on water operator's experiences and day-to-day practice. This will ensure that the new legislative framework will continue to guarantee safe, clean and wholesome drinking water for citizens.

## Communications, stakeholder engagement and outreach

As part of our media partnership with EurActiv, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, EurEau Vice President, penned an opinion piece on materials in contact with drinking water, which was published in May.

Bruno Tisserand presented an article in the Finnish 'Vesitalous Journal' on the Right2Water campaign. Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) wrote an article on the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the COP22 for the Global Vision Institute.

We encouraged the European Commission and EU Member States to invest heavily in updating and developing Europe's water infrastructure, which will benefit drinking water services. We reiterated this message at the working group 'Water and Agriculture' meeting in the European Parliament in April, with Michel Dantin MEP. The theme of this meeting was 'the need of investments in the water sector'.





# WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION



## List of positions

- **Position paper on Overflows from Collecting Systems**

 [click here](#)

- **Position paper on surface water resources used for drinking water abstraction**

 [click here](#)

- **Position paper micropollutants and the control at source approach**

 [click here](#)

- **Position paper on glyphosate**

 [click here](#)

- **Position paper on dental amalgam**

 [click here](#)

## What is water resource protection?

Protecting water resources from contamination is vital for a healthy water ecosystem and for ensuring a supply of clean and safe drinking water for us and for future generations. Water operators strive to provide this, but need robust EU legislation which ensures the preservation of water resources and the effective implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). We advocate 'control at source' and preventive protection over treatment. This helps to guarantee a good quality water supply, better environmental protection and keeping water affordable for all.

## Why is it important for EurEau?

In 2016, multiple threats were identified in relation to water resource protection. The renewal of the glyphosate authorisation debate and the proposal of endocrine disruptor criteria definition for the application of the Biocide and Pesticide Regulations were good examples of the challenges of EU chemical legislation. It is clear: to continue providing safe and clean water, substances that could be harmful to the environment or to human health need to be controlled and not authorised if they can contaminate

water sources. The Precautionary Principle, as laid down in the European Treaty should be applied and, as studies have confirmed the potential risk of glyphosate and endocrine disruptive chemicals for health, it is of utmost interest to limit the use of these substances. We are in favour of a hazard-based approach rather than a risk-based one.

This year, the European Parliament and the Council concluded a first reading agreement on the Mercury Regulation proposed by the European Commission in February 2016. The final compromise did not retain the ban on dental amalgam (art.10) by 2022 that we and the European Parliament supported. The control at source of dental amalgam would have facilitated the shift to a real circular economy for water services, since this would have allowed for the lower release of mercury in the environment and the better protection of our water resources.

The European Commission published a study on combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Europe, concluding that there is globally a lack of information on these structures and their pollution emissions. We, as sewer network operators, recognise many opportunities to make urban environments, from small towns to large cities, more sustainable through the management of waste water flows

and storm water. We acknowledge the significant financial responsibilities that are associated with making changes to the network of collecting systems. We need to prioritise investments where the impact is the most significant and, where possible, to prevent runoff from ending up in sewers. This analysis should be done locally to adapt the solution to the local situation.

The impact of agriculture on the quality of water resources is an issue. Nitrates and pesticides are pollutants mainly coming from agricultural practices. 2016 was perhaps be a turning point for the implementation of environmental measures in agriculture practices relating to the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This year, for the first time, the water directors and their counterparts in national agricultural ministries organised a workshop to exchange how best to work together to prevent water pollution. This was initiated by the European Commissioners for the Environment and Agriculture, Karmenu Vella and Phil Hogan. We fully support this initiative.

## What did we do?

The EurEau Committees were very active on this file by publishing five position papers on control at source, surface water protection, overflows from collecting systems, glyphosate

and dental amalgam.

We engaged with stakeholders and the European Parliament by participating in conferences and meeting directly MEPs on different dossiers, especially dental amalgam, including Michel Dantin (EPP, AGRI Committee), Anneli Jaatteenmaki (ALDE, ENVI Committee), Massimo Paolucci (S&D, ENVI Committee) and Michèle Rivasi (Green's, ENVI Committee).

In January, the EurEau Committee on Waste Water (EU2) organised a workshop on combined sewer overflows where the European Commission presented their study and participated in the discussion with EurEau members. Our presentation from this workshop was shared by the European Commission to the UWWTD Expert Group.

In June, Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) attended a stakeholder workshop organised by DG Health and Safety (SANTÉ) to present the proposed criteria for endocrine disruptive substances. Following this presentation we answered the public consultation to insist on the application of the precautionary principle, which in our view is not considered in the proposed criteria (Endocrine Disruptors definition for Biocidal Product Regulation and Plant Protection Product Regulation).

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, EurEau Vice-President, participated in the workshop

on 'Water and Agriculture' between water directors and their counterparts in national agriculture ministries organised in Bratislava in October. It was an opportunity to highlight the weaknesses of the Common Agricultural Policy, WFD and Pesticides Regulation from the perspective of the water industry. We also provided input to the strategy developed by the joint DG Environment and DG Agriculture task group regarding the protection of water resources.

We called the European Commission's attention to the important issue of pharmaceuticals in the environment, asking them to address the lack of progress from their side in preparing a strategic approach.

## Communications, stakeholder engagement and outreach

Bruno Tisserand contributed to the Portuguese 'Revista' publication, arguing why we should all protect our water resources.

Arjen Frentz (Vewin, The Netherlands), Chair of the EurEau Committee on Drinking Water and Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden), Chair of the EurEau Joint Working Group on the Water Framework Directive, published an opinion piece in EurActiv on why the EU should do more to protect surface water resources from contamination,

as it is vital for ensuring a supply of clean and safe drinking water.

Continuing our contributions to EurActiv, Jean-Pierre Silan, co-Chair of our Committee on Waste Water (EU2), wrote about how and why the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive is so vital to our health and the environment.

We were extensively quoted in an article on endocrine disruptors in EurActiv.

## Future

We will follow up in the European Commission on the definition of endocrine disrupting criteria, Priority Substances, the action plan on pharmaceuticals and the evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). The endocrine disruptor criteria definition is still under debate between the European Parliament, the European Council and the European Commission and should be adopted in 2017. The roadmap on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment still has to be published. A public consultation on the strategy could be launched in 2017. The evaluation of the UWWTD is planned to be conducted in 2017 probably with specific attention paid to the CSO issues. We would like to see CSOs considered as a WFD issue rather than an UWWTD one. The next review of the list of Priority Substances might take place in 2018.

# COST RECOVERY FOR WATER SERVICES



## List of positions

- **The economic challenge of reduced water consumption**

 [click here](#)

- **Access to water and measures in the case of non-payment**

 [click here](#)

- **Briefing: cost recovery and water pricing**

 [click here](#)

## What is the issue?

The principle of cost recovery, enshrined in art.9 of the Water Framework Directive, is implemented in almost all European countries. Water tariffs are set at local or national level and should aim at covering the full costs of water services. 80% of water services costs are fixed cost, but the fixed part of the tariff covers only a minor percentage of the costs, since in many countries water charges are made up of fixed and volumetric parts. This means that decreasing water consumption entails a reduction of income for water utilities and may constitute a risk to the medium and long term future of the European water services.

## Why is it important for EurEau?

We want to raise decision makers' awareness on the detrimental consequences of underfunded drinking water and waste water services for future generations.



## What did we do?

We focused on cost recovery, water pricing and the consequences of reduced water consumption on the capacity to invest in water infrastructure.

The work on cost recovery and water pricing, building on existing EurEau position papers, demonstrated the interconnections between the principle of cost recovery, the 3Ts approach (taxes, tariffs and transfers), and the existing solutions to the problem of affordability, while underlining the importance of the sustainability of water services.

We reiterated that maintaining water tariffs artificially low would generate a cycle of underfunded services, inadequate investment and aging infrastructures. The performance of water services would decrease and this will impact on the capacity of water service operators to effectively and efficiently perform their services. Consumers would not be able to enjoy the same level of quality at a similar degree of affordability.

This should be considered in the context of decreasing water consumption which results in a reduction of income for water utilities - where a large part of water operators' income is linked to the level of consumption - and may constitute a risk to the medium and long term future of European water services. We published a paper explaining 'the economic challenge of reduced water consumption' faced by water utilities depending on the different tariff structures in place at local level (fixed + volumetric tariff or totally volumetric tariff).

We want to raise awareness about the consequences of the decline in water consumption especially in terms of lack of investment capacity in the water sector and the impact that this would have on accessibility and availability of water services.

EurEau supports efforts to use water resources wisely. It is however necessary to adjust the tariff structure in a way that guarantees sustainable water supply and sanitation services in the long term. Tariff structures should support investment and maintenance from catchment to tap.

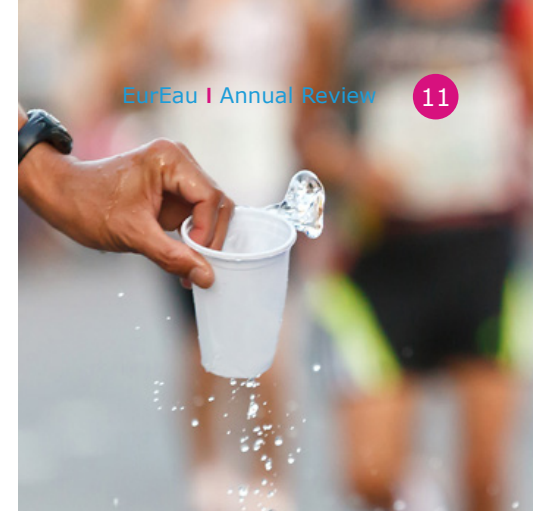
## Communications, stakeholder engagement and outreach

EurEau met the European Investment Bank and the European Commission to discuss the need of investments in the water sector to guarantee the same level of water services in the future.

We co-organised the European Parliament working group 'Water and Agriculture' meeting in April, with Michel Dantin MEP, focusing on 'the need of investments in the water sector' with speakers from the OECD and the European Investment Bank.

## Future

The topics of cost recovery, affordability and investments in water services will be one of the 2017 priorities for our Committee on Legal and Economic Affairs (EU3), especially within the framework of the preparatory work on the review of the WFD.



# LIST OF POSITION PAPERS 2016

**EurEau published eleven position papers and briefing notes in 2016**

**Overflows  
from Collecting  
Systems**



**Shale Gas:**  
minimising the impacts  
of the exploration for  
and extraction of  
unconventional  
onshore hydrocarbons



**Making the  
human right  
to water and  
sanitation a  
reality in Europe**  
(Briefing note)



**Micropollutants  
and the control  
at source  
approach**



**Transparency  
in water  
governance and  
water services**



**Access to water  
and measures  
in case of  
non-payment**  
(Briefing note)



**Protection of  
surface water  
resources  
used for  
drinking water  
abstraction**



**Dental  
amalgam and  
the Mercury  
Regulation**



**Cost recovery  
and water  
pricing**  
(Briefing note)





**Glyphosate:**  
regulating for the  
potential impacts on  
the endocrine system



**The economic  
challenge of  
reduced water  
consumption**





# OTHER WORK IN 2016

Here are some of the other meetings that EurEau members participated in over 2016, starting with EurEau Committee meetings.

## EurEau meetings

We held nine EurEau Committee meetings.

**1 February**  
**ANTWERP**

Waste Water  
(EU2)

**4-5 February**  
**LUXEMBOURG**

Drinking Water  
(EU1)

**12 February**  
**BERLIN**

Economics and  
Legal Affairs  
(EU3)

**19-20 May**  
**BRATISLAVA**

Drinking Water  
(EU1)

**19-20 May**  
**STOCKHOLM**

Economics  
and Legal Affairs  
(EU3)

**1-3 June**  
**BUCHAREST**

Waste Water  
(EU2)

**19-21 September**  
**COPENHAGEN**

Drinking Water,  
Waste Water, and  
Economics and Legal  
Affairs as part of the  
EurEau Congress

During our EurEau Congress 2016 in Copenhagen, we hosted a conference under the auspices of COP22 entitled 'Building resilience to climate change in the water sector'. The [report](#) was sent to the UN in advance of their meeting in Marrakesh.

Our General Assembly met twice, hosted first by our Dutch members (Unie van Waterschappen and Vewin) in The Hague and then in Copenhagen by DANVA.

The Executive Committee met in total six times, both in person and over web conference.

EurEau is eager to keep build relationships amongst our members' associations. Our long term members work with newer ones to facilitate their working within EurEau.

## European Commission Advisory Groups

Our member experts attended the Common Implementation Strategy meetings of the Water Framework Directive and the Expert Group meetings of the Drinking Water Directive, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Bathing Water Directive.

These fora can be attended exclusively by European umbrella Federations, such as EurEau.

### WFD CIS Working Groups in 2016-18

As last year, our member experts attended the Common Implementation Strategy meetings of the Water Framework Directive and the Expert Groups meetings of the Drinking Water Directive, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Bathing Water Directive.

These fora can be attended exclusively by European umbrella Federations, such as EurEau.

You can find the new CIS structure and the EurEau representatives on the [EurEau Intranet](#).

### Strategic Coordination Group

This group prepares the meeting of water directors. It is a strategic group where issues arising from the implementation of the WFD are addressed.

- **Focal Point: Oliver Loebel** (EurEau)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)

### Ecostat WG Ecological Status

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

### WG Chemicals

- **FP: Carsten Schmidt** (BDEW, Germany)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)
- **CC: Michael Bentvelsen** (Unie van Waterschappen, The Netherlands)
- **CC: Wennemar Cramer** (Vewin, The Netherlands)

### WG Floods

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

### WG Data and Information Sharing (formerly 'Reporting')

- **FP: Sarah Mukherjee** (Water UK, United Kingdom)
- **CC: Dominique Gatel** (FP2E, France)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

### WG Groundwater

- **FP: Dr Claudia Castell-Exner** (EurEau)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)
- **CC: Claus Vangsgaard** (DANVA, Denmark)
- **CC: Rob Eijssink** (Vewin, The Netherlands)
- **CC: Alena Trancikova** (Asociácia Vodárenských Spoločností, Slovakia)
- **CC: Wennemar Cramer** (Vewin, The Netherlands)



### ATG Water Reuse

- **FP: Pier Paolo Abis** (Utilitalia, Italy)
- **CC: Roberto Mazzini** (Utilitalia, Italy)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

### 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)

### STRUBIAS Working Group

A working group set up to define struvite and ash-based products under the Fertiliser Regulation.

- **Jan Veldhoven**  
(Unie van Waterschappen,  
The Netherlands)

**DWD expert group** is made up of the representatives of national ministries dealing with the implementation of the DWD. Stakeholders such as EurEau have an observer status.

- **FP: Dr Claudia Castell-Exner**  
(DVGW, Germany)
- **CC: Dominique Gatel** (FP2E, France)
- **CC: Jim Marshall**  
(Water UK, United Kingdom)

**UWWTD expert group** is made up of the representatives of national ministries dealing with the implementation of the UWWTD. Stakeholders such as EurEau have an observer status.

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

**BWD expert group** is made up of the representatives of national ministries dealing with the implementation of the BWD. Stakeholders such as EurEau have an observer status.

- **FP: Alejandro de la Sota**  
(AEAS, Spain)
- **CC: Bruno Tisserand** (FP2E, France)
- **CC: Benoit Hecq** (Belgaqua, Belgium)

**Technical Working Group (TWG) for Hydrocarbons BREF** is the forum for the exchange of information to identify Best Available Techniques.

- **FP: Jim Marshall**  
(Water UK, United Kingdom)

We continued our partnership with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre on iDRIP to identify contaminants in water.



This year, EurEau was asked to speak and to attend many events, as a recognition of our efforts and of the specific know-how we bring.

In January, Carsten Schmidt (DVGW, Germany), from the Committee on Drinking Water (EU1), spoke on 'Risk management from catchment to tap' at the Conference 'Drinking Water protection is paramount' organised by the European Commission and the Dutch Presidency of the European Union. Dr Claudia Castell-Exner presented at the DWD expert group.

Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) attended the IMPRESSIONS climate action project in Venice. Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) was at the debate on the European Circular Economy hosted by the representation of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

In March, Carla Chiaretti was invited to the Water Regulators' (WAREG) General Assembly, in Tirana, to present EurEau's views on benchmarking and

affordability, alongside Aqua Publica Europea and the International Water Association. In the same month, she delivered a presentation on the developments following the European Citizens Initiative at EU level in the framework of the ERRA-REKK Water Utility Regulation Training in Budapest.

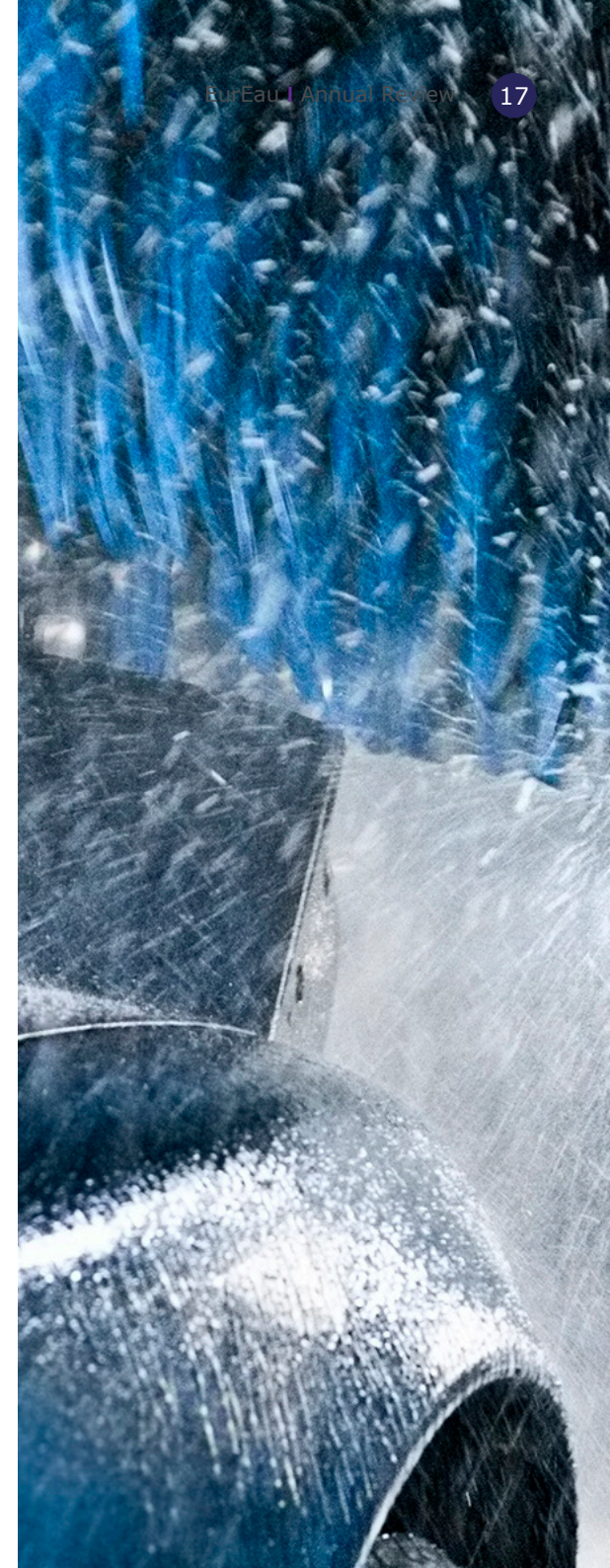
Bruno Tisserand, EurEau President, spoke in the European Parliament in May, on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030. Bertrand Vallet represented us at IFAT, giving an overview of the current water policy issues at EU level.

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner gave the keynote speech at the 'Materials and products in contact with drinking water' symposium.

In June, Bertrand Vallet presented EurEau's views on the Fertiliser Regulation at a workshop organised by the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform.

EurEau was represented by Pedro Beraud (APDA, Portugal) in the UNEP seminar on 'Global Storm and Waste Water Initiatives: Past, present and future' which was held in September.

October was a very busy month: Bruno Tisserand presented EurEau's position on affordability and benchmarking in two workshops at the IWA Congress in Brisbane, and Carla Chiaretti spoke about the importance of water in the circular economy at the ENVICON in Poznan. Dr Claudia Castell-Exner (EurEau Vice President; DVGW, Germany) attended on the workshop on Water and Agriculture held in Bratislava and organised by DG Environment of the European Commission and the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



In November, Bruno Tisserand spoke at ECOMONDO on the SDG6 and Agenda 2030 and at the Budapest Water Summit.

Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden) was EurEau's representative at the political seminar 'This is what we need to do for a cleaner sea' in the framework of the HELCOM 7<sup>th</sup> Strategy Forum in Stockholm.

December was also a month full of events that saw EurEau's know-how on display: Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, appeared before the Committee of the Regions to speak on 'Innovative Water management' and delivered a speech to the NATO Civil Emergency Planning Committee on 'Building Resilience in today's security environment'. Dr Claudia Castell-Exner delivered at a presentation on the standards on risk management and crisis management for water services at the Workshop on Water Safety and Security organised by the European Commission in December. Bruno Tisserand presented at the Cremona conference organised by our colleagues in Utilitalia.

EurEau members and the Secretariat participate in many other bodies and meetings. Here are some of them.

## Expert Groups

**EIP on Water High Level Steering Group (HLSG)** is a group of stakeholders working at removing barriers and bottlenecks to innovation in the water sector. The HLSG is a group of advisers nominated by the European Commissioner for the Environment to define the working lines and objectives of the EIP.

- **Greet de Guedre**  
(Belgaqua, Belgium)

**EIP on Water Task Force** is the operational group that is in charge of implementing the objectives defined by the HLSG.

- **Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

**WssTP General Assembly** is the decision-making body, and implements the platform's strategy as decided by the WssTP General Assembly.

- **Oliver Loebel** (EurEau)

**Water JPI Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB)** is composed of national bodies in charge of research funding in water to coordinate investment across member states (limited compared DG Research calls). The SAB is a group of stakeholders responsible for the comment lines of the program.

- **Roberto Zocchi** (Utilitalia, Italy)
- **Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

**OECD Water Governance Initiative** is an international multi-stakeholder network of members from the public, private and not-for-profit sectors to share good practices in support of better governance in the water sector.

- **Hendrik-Jan IJsinga**  
(Vewin, The Netherlands)

**ECPA Independent Advisory Board** is an ECPA (European Crop Protection Association) advisory board where stakeholders are represented and can give their views on ECPA's projects.

- **Dr Claudia Castell-Exner**  
(DVGW, Germany)

**ChemSec Business Group** fosters collaboration among companies working together to make concrete progress on reducing the use of toxic substances.

- **Anders Finnson**  
(Svenskt Vatten, Sweden)

## European Benchmarking Co-operation Foundation (Board)

A platform to perform benchmarking for water services.

- **Oliver Loebel** (EurEau)



## Working group 'Water and Agriculture' of the European Parliament's Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Two meetings of the working group 'Water and Agriculture' of the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development took place this year under the chairmanship of MEP Michel Dantin. In January, we discussed water reuse with MEPs and the European Commission. In April, the group focused on 'the need of investments in the water sector' with the intervention of speakers from OECD and European Investment Bank. The topic attracted the interest of the many MEPs present in the meeting. Several meetings are scheduled to take place in 2017.

## EurEau and its members: secondments and exchanges

We visited and were visited by a lot of our members in 2016.

In February Neil Dhot and Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) met the BDEW water team in Berlin and the ALUSEAU team in Luxembourg. Carla visited the MaViz team in Budapest in March and the Utilitalia headquarters in Rome in June. Caroline Greene (EurEau), spent some days in Bucharest seconded to ARA.

In the second half of the year, Unie van Waterschappen (The Netherlands) visited us at our offices. Oliver Loebel (EurEau) visited our other Dutch members, Vewin, in November. He also attended the DVGW congress, meeting many of the organisation's team. In addition, he met Aquawal in Belgium. Our colleagues from Water UK visited us several times.

Our Executive Committee members visited Water UK in March and met with Peter Simpson, CEO of Anglian Water, and Jo Harrison, Director of Asset Management, United Utilities. In June the Executive Committee visited our German members BDEW and DVGW, meeting Jörg Simon, CEO Berlin Water Works and Vice President of BDEW as well as Dirk Waider, CEO Gelsenwasser AG and Vice President of DVGW.

We had the pleasure to welcome Anna Pomassl from our Austrian member ÖVGW at the EurEau Secretariat. She was seconded for five weeks to learn about how the EU institutions work, help the EurEau team with drinking water related topics and exchange ideas on how the EurEau Secretariat can improve its contacts with members. For us, this was an excellent opportunity to learn about the Austrian water services and their priorities at national and European levels.

The Secretariat were hosted in Liege by AIDE, where we visited a waste water treatment plant to learn more about water in Wallonia.



## 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 once per month and is coordinated by Carla Chiaretti. The meetings are held in the EurEau offices and attendees can join via webex. Since it is an open group, we encourage participants from national associations to join us. The group met nine times this year.

## Research projects in 2016

These are the research projects that we contributed to in 2016.

### POWERSTEP

- **Ole Steensberg Øgelund**  
(DANVA, Denmark)

### SOLUTIONS

- **Dr Claudia Castell-Exner**  
(DVGW, Germany)
- **Bruno Tisserand**  
(FP2E, France)

### TOPPS

- **Dr Claudia Castell-Exner**  
(DVGW, Germany)

### TreatRec

- **Saijariina Toivikko**  
(FIWA, Finland)

### TRUST

- **Jan Peter van der Hoek**  
(Vewin, The Netherlands)











## **MEDIA AND OUTREACH**



We made a positive start to our media partnership with EurActiv, publishing five articles and one video interview with them. We also had articles featured in other publications such as the Portuguese 'Revista' magazine, the Finnish Vesitalous Journal and in Pan European Networks. We issued six press releases during the year. The Dutch water company Vewin featured us in an article about pharmaceuticals. We hosted a networking event with members, stakeholders and colleagues from the EU institutions to welcome our new Secretary General Oliver Loebel.

We initiated a new way of working with our network's communications colleagues in member organisations, improving coordination. This will continue in 2017.

Both the secretariat and our members continued meeting with policy makers from across the EU institutions and other organisations. These organisations range from those dealing with the environment to cities to agriculture to pharmaceuticals to regulators. This drives home an important message for us: water is an issue that affects everyone and all sectors of the economy and society. It is vital that we all work together to protect it.





## THE TEAM



**OLIVER LOEBEL**

Secretary General

**Background studies:**

MBA in International Business,  
International Business Management;  
BA in International Trade.

**Previous work:**

Oliver joins the water sector from the polyurethane insulation sector, where he was Managing Director for PU Europe for eight years. Before this, he worked as director for sector policy at the European SME association UEAPME and represented the building services contractors at European level through CEETB. Oliver worked with the European Commission between 1994-97, developing support measures for Europe's skilled crafts and trades and small enterprises.



**CARLA CHIARETTI**

Head of Policy

**Background studies:**

BA in political science and law;  
MA in international relations;  
MA in European affairs.

**Work experience:**

Carla previously worked as a policy officer with the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union during the Irish Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2013. She was also an inter-institutional coordinator at the European Commission's secretariat general in the Unit for the GRI (Groupe de Relations Interinstitutionnelles) and the European Parliament where she was responsible for the ENVI Committee.





### **BERTRAND VALLET**

Policy Officer – water services

#### **Background studies:**

PhD civil engineering,  
water treatment and environment;  
MScA civil engineering;  
BSc engineering.

#### **Work experience:**

Before working in Brussels, Bertrand worked for Aquafin, a BelgAqua member. He then spent nine years in Canada, first in Quebec to work on his PhD in urban waste water treatment modelling and then in the city of Montreal where he researched waste water treatment. He also worked as a manager for water related offer development with the compliance company APAVE in France.



### **CAROLINE GREENE**

Communications Manager

#### **Background studies:**

MA in European studies;  
Bachelor in Business Studies.

#### **Work experience:**

Prior to joining EurEau, Caroline spent five years as a Communications Executive with EURO CITIES. She also was a consultant with Eamonn Bates Europe Public Affairs, working on the award-winning 'ban the cruel seals trade' campaign in 2009. She worked for both the European Parliament and subsequently the European Commission between 2004-2008.

### **LOUISE HOOGENHOUT**

Office Manager

#### **Background Studies:**

MA social work.

#### **Work experience:**

Louise has worked with EurEau for over seven years. She is a British and New Zealand citizen. Prior to joining EurEau she lived and worked in Australia and in several South East Asian countries working on various Doctors without Borders (MSF) projects. She speaks fluent English and French, and basic Dutch.





LOOKING  
FORWARD  
TO **2017**

As we turn the page on a successful 2016, it is time to look at what 2017 will bring us.

As in the past, our work with the European institutions will be guided by our three big priorities:

- protecting water resources
- securing investments for the water sector by applying an appropriate pricing policy
- promoting the sustainable use of resources through the circular economy.

A look at the EU's agenda for 2017 shows that we will have numerous opportunities to promote these priorities.

The Fertiliser Regulation is likely to be adopted next autumn. We will maintain our efforts to open the door to the internal market for fertilisers containing sewage sludge or sludge-derived materials.

Towards the end of 2017, we expect to see the proposal for the revised Drinking Water Directive. EurEau is actively involved in the preparatory work. We participate in all expert groups and will organise dedicated events to discuss drinking water parameters and requirements for products in contact with drinking water.

The second important legislative proposal expected for 2017 will set minimum requirements for water reuse. EurEau works closely with the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre to ensure that the proposal combines high levels of health and environmental protection with economic feasibility.

The European Commission is also likely to launch the assessment of another piece of key legislation, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive this year. The UWWTD guides a lot of our work, and it is vital that it is fit for purpose, protecting us and the environment.

Furthermore, several initiatives regarding micropollutants will require our involvement. We will contribute to the consultation on REACH, maintain our pressure on the European Commission to present a strategy on pharmaceuticals in the environment and support the efforts of the commission to establish a constructive dialogue between the water and agriculture sectors.

Last but not least is the Water Framework Directive. Although it will not be revised before 2019, we are already developing opinions on key features.

This work will continue in 2017 and will enable us to contribute to the revision process from the very start.

What an impressive work programme!

EurEau is the recognised voice of the European water sector. This offers opportunities, but brings also challenges. The European institutions expect us to provide high quality input in a timely manner. Working together and sharing tasks and responsibilities will always be the most efficient way and is the true strength of our association. We will further strengthen this in 2017.

Understanding local needs and strengthening personal contacts is key to offering better services. The EurEau secretariat will maintain our visits to national member associations in 2017. The reason is clear, EurEau exists through its members. They will remain at the heart of everything we do.

Let's continue this successful work in 2017 to the benefit of all of us.

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Oliver Loebel

EurEau Secretary General

APPENDIX

EurEau Executive Committee 2017

EurEau President:



BRUNO TISSERAND
FP2E (France)

EurEau Vice Presidents:



DR CLAUDIA CASTELL-EXNER
DVGW (Germany)
Executive Committee member



CARL-EMIL LARSEN
DANVA (Denmark)
Chair of EurEau Committee on
Economics and Legal Affairs (EU 3)

EurEau Executive Committee Members



GIORDANO COLARULLO
Utilitalia (Italy)



MIRCEA MACRI
Asociatia Romana a Apei (Romania)



KLARA RAMM
IGWP (Poland)



MARIANO BLANCO
AEAS (Spain)



NEIL DHOT
Water UK (United Kingdom)



JEAN-PIERRE SILAN
Belgaqua (Belgium)
**co-Chair of the EurEau Committee
on Waste Water (EU 2)**



ANNA LINUSSON
Svenskt Vatten (Sweden)



ARJEN FRENTZ
Vewin (The Netherlands)
**Chair of the EurEau Committee
on Drinking Water (EU 1)**



GREET DE GUELDRÉ
Belgaqua (Belgium)
**co-Chair of the EurEau Committee
on Waste Water (EU 2)**



ALAIN GILLIS
Belgaqua (BE)
Treasurer

EurEau Commission Chairs

EurEau GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

Austria

Raimund Paschinger

ÖWAV

Austrian Water and
Waste Management Association

ÖVGW

Austrian Association
for Gas and Water



Belgium

Alain Gillis

Belgaqua

Belgian Federation for
the Water Sector



Bulgaria

Ivan Ivanov

BWA

Bulgarian Water Association



Croatia

Andrej Marochini

GVIK

Croatian Water and
Waste Water Association



Cyprus

Iacovos Papaïacovou

Cypriot Association of Water
and Sewerage Boards



Czech Republic

Ondrej Benes

SOVAK CR

Water Supply and Sewerage
Association for the Czech Republic



Denmark

Jens Prismus

DANVA

Danish Water and Waste
Water Association



Estonia

Marja-Liisa Soone

EVEL

Estonian Water Works Association



Finland

Osmo Seppälä

FIWA

Finnish Water Utilities Association



France

Diane D'Arras

FP2E

Professional Federation of Water
Companies



Germany

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner 
BDEW

German Association of Energy
and Water Industries

DVGW



German Technical and Scientific
Association for Gas and Water

Greece

Markos Sklivaniotis
EDEYA



Hellenic Association of Municipal Water
Supply and Sewerage Companies

Hungary

Edit Nagy
MaVíz



Hungarian Water Utility Association

Ireland

Tom Leahy
CCMA



The County and City Management
Association

Italy

Roberto Zocchi
Utilitalia



Federation of Energy, Water
and Environmental Services

Luxembourg

Raymond Erpelding
ALUSEAU



Luxembourg Association
of Water Services

Malta

Charles Brincat
Water Services Corporation

**Norway**

Toril Hofshagen
Norsk Vann - Norwegian Water

**Poland**

Klara Ramm
IGWP
Polish Waterworks Chamber
of Commerce

**Portugal**

Rui Godinho
APDA
Portuguese Association of
Water and Waste Water Services

**Romania**

Mircea Macri
ARA
Romanian Water Association

**Serbia**

observer status
Tatjana Petric
CCIS
Chamber of Commerce and
Industry of Serbia

**Slovakia**

Vladimír Jakub
AVS
Association of Water Companies

**Slovenia**

Iztok Rozman
Chamber of Commerce
and Industry of Slovenia
Chamber of Public Utilities

**Spain**

Mariano Blanco Orozco
AEAS
Spanish Water and Waste
Water Association

**Sweden**

Anna Linusson
Svenst Vatten
Swedish Water Association

**Switzerland**

André Olschewski
SSIGE / SVGW
Swiss Gas and Water
Industry Association

**The Netherlands**

Hein Pieper
UvW
Unie van
Waterschappen
Vewin

**United Kingdom**

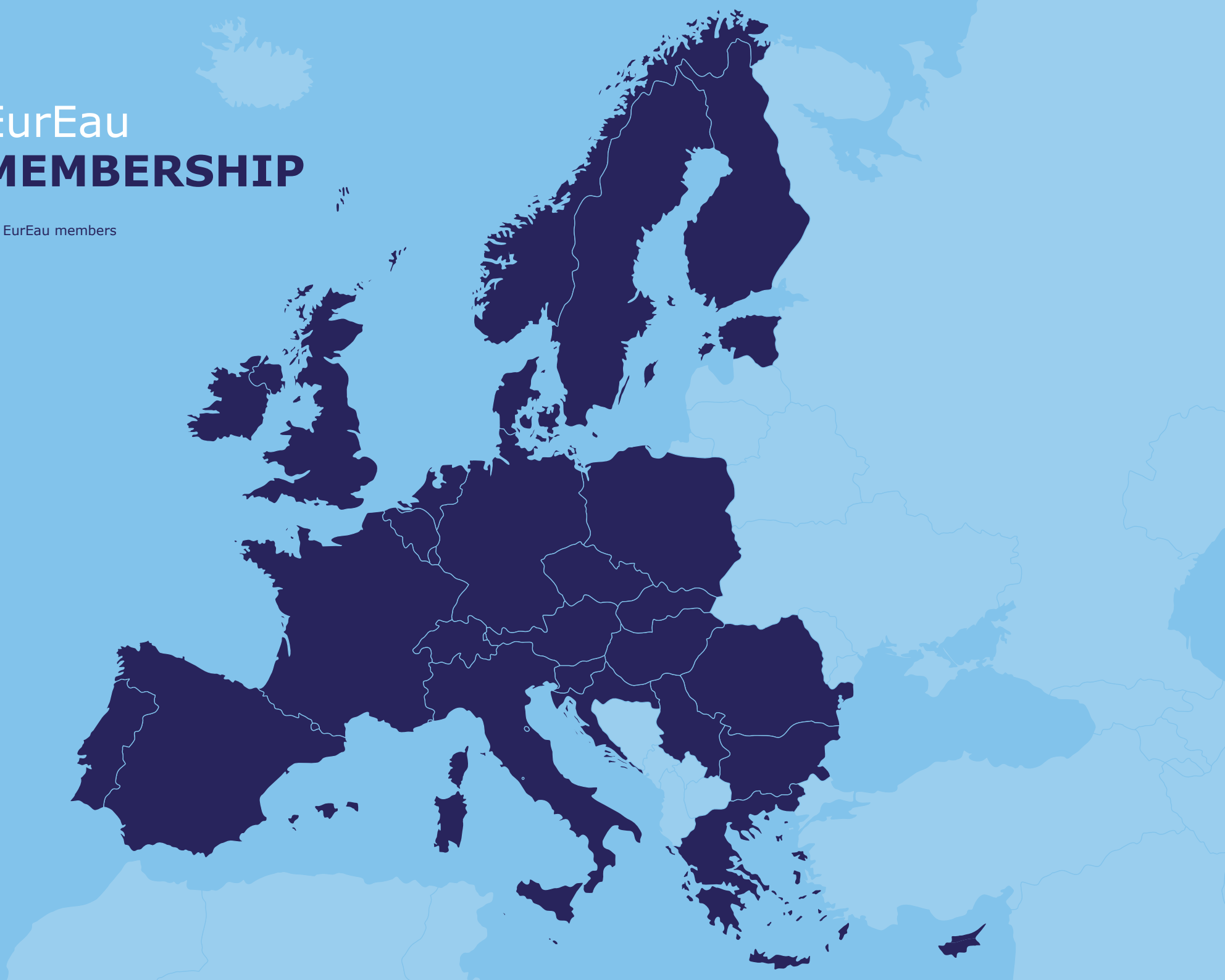
Neil Dhot
Water UK



Austria	OWAV	Österreichischer Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband - Austrian Water and Waste Management Association	www.oewav.at
	OVGW	Österreichische Vereinigung für das Gas- und Wasserfach - Austrian Association for Gas and Water	www.ovgw.at
Belgium	Belgaqua	Belgische Federatie voor de Watersector / Fédération Belge du Secteur de l'Eau - Belgian Federation for the Water Sector	www.belgaqua.be
Bulgaria	BWA	Българската асоциация по водите - BAB1 - Bulgarian Water Association	www.bwa-bg.com
Croatia	GVIK	Hrvatska grupacija vodovoda i kanalizacije - GVIK - Croatian Water and Waste Water Association	
Cyprus	CAWSB	Σύνδεσμος Συμβουλίων Ύδρευσης-Αποχέτευσης Κύπρου - Cyprus Association of Water and Sewerage Boards	www.wbn.org.cy
Czech Republic	SOVAK	Sdružení oborů vodovodů a kanalizací České republiky - Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic	www.sovak.cz
Denmark	DANVA	Dansk Vand - og Spildevandsforening - Danish Water and Waste Water Association	www.danva.dk
Estonia	EVEL	Eesti Vee-ettevõtete Liit i.e. - Estonian Water Works Association	ww.evel.ee
Finland	FIWA	Vesilaitosyhdistys - Vattenverksförening - Finnish Water Utilities Association	www.vvy.fi
France	FP2E	Fédération Professionnelle des Entreprises de l'Eau - Professional Federation of Water Companies	www.fp2e.org
Germany	BDEW	Bundesverband der Energie- und Wasserwirtschaft - German Association of Energy and Water Industries	www.bdew.de
	DVGW	Deutscher Verein des Gas- und Wasserfaches e.V - German Technical and Scientific Association for Gas and Water	www.dvgw.de
Greece	EDEYA	ΕΝΩΣΗ ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΩΝ ΥΔΡΕΥΣΗΣ ΑΠΟΧΕΤΕΥΣΗΣ - Ε.Δ.Ε.Υ.Α. Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises for Water Supply and Sewage	www.edeya.gr
Hungary	MaViz	Magyar Víziközmű Szövetség - Hungarian Water Utility Association	www.maviz.org
Ireland	CCMA	The County and City Managers' Association	www.lgcsb.ie
Italy	Utilitalia	Associazione delle imprese idriche energetiche e ambientali - Federation of Energy, Water and Environmental Services	www.utilitalia.it
Luxembourg	ALUSEAU	Association Luxembourgeoise des Services d'Eau - Luxembourg Association of Water Services	www.aluseau.lu
Malta	WSC	Water Services Corporation	www.wsc.com.mt
The Netherlands	UvW	Unie van Waterschappen - Dutch Water Authorities	www.dutchwaterauthorities.com
	Vewin	Vereniging van waterbedrijven in Nederland - Association of Dutch Water Companies	www.vewin.nl
Norway	Norsk Vann	Norsk Vann - Norwegian Water	www.norskvann.no
Poland	IGWP	Izba Gospodarcza Wodociągów Polskie - Polish Waterworks Chamber of Commerce	www.igwp.org.pl
Portugal	APDA	Associação Portuguesa de Distribuição e Drenagem de Águas Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services	www.apda.pt
Romania	ARA	Asociația Română a Apei - Romanian Water Association	www.ara.ro
Serbia*	CCIS	Privredna Komora Srbije - Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia	www.pks.rs
Slovakia	AVS	Asociácia Vodárenských Spoločností - Association of Water Companies	www.avssr.sk
Slovenia	GZS	Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije - Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia - Chamber of Public Utilities	www.gzs.si
Spain	AEAS	Asociación Española de Abastecimientos de Agua y Saneamiento Spanish Water and Wastewater Association	www.aeas.es
Sweden	Svenskt Vatten	Svenskt Vatten - The Swedish Water and Wastewater Association	www.svensktvatten.se
Switzerland	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
UK	Water UK	Water UK	www.water.org.uk

EurEau MEMBERSHIP

■ EurEau members





EurEau

EurEau

The voice of Europe's water sector

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