



EurEau feedback to the roadmap on the INSPIRE Directive

Sharing geospatial data on the environment – evaluation (INSPIRE Directive)

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Submitted by: Carla CHIARETTI

User type: Business association

Organisation: EurEau

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Country of origin: Belgium

EurEau is the European association of water service providers with 34 national member organisations in 29 countries.

The INSPIRE directive (annex III) specifically includes “utility facilities such as sewage ... and water supply” in its scope.

Ensure the security of critical infrastructures

While EurEau supports efforts to increase the access of environmentally relevant spatial data to the public, EU-legislation must ensure the protection of critical infrastructures / essential services to prevent malicious acts and protect people’s health and the environment. Hence, restrictions must be maintained regarding public access to information on underground water utility networks and production / treatment facilities. The drinking water supply network is considered as essential service under Directive 2016/1148 (NIS directive) and as critical infrastructure in the European reference network for critical infrastructure protection (ERNICIP).

Most Member States define the drinking water supply network as national critical infrastructure. The European Programme for Critical Infrastructure Protection is currently under revision and might include national critical infrastructures such as



drinking water supply. The waste water network is defined as critical infrastructure in an increasing number of Member States.

The INSPIRE evaluation process should assess policy coherence with European and national requirements for the protection of essential services and national critical infrastructures.

Avoid duplication with other EU legislation

EurEau supports the objective of the INSPIRE directive to provide relevant data about the soil, groundwater- and surface water quality. However, duplication in reporting requirements must be avoided.

EurEau invites the Commission to evaluate policy coherence in terms of data provision and reporting requirements with regards to the following directives: Water Framework Directive, Groundwater Directive, Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Nitrates Directive, Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive, and the new Drinking Water Directive (final approval likely in late 2020), in particular, its article 8.



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.



EurEau

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