

EurEau
**Annual
Review
2017**



EurEau



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Introduction from the President

As 2017 ends, we can look back at a busy and successful year.

I am very pleased and proud to be re-elected as the EurEau president for the next two years. EurEau is changing a lot, adapting to meet the challenges we face.

We are beginning to see the first pieces emerge from the EU's water legislation review.

The European Commission published the Drinking Water Directive review and the Water Reuse Directive will follow soon. As water operators, we have a wealth of experience in how best to deliver clean drinking water to customers, and in how to safely reuse water in agriculture or irrigation. We work closely with the EU institutions to ensure that the legislative proposals comprehensively protect consumers and water resources.

The first consultation on the revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive was launched. This vital legislation protects our health through providing for the safe processing of our waste water until its return to the environment.

Many of our positions were reflected in this year's Fertiliser Regulation. While the regulation doesn't go as far as we would like, the door is now open for waste water residual materials to potentially be used as input

materials for fertilisers. This is a significant boost for the Circular Economy.

But we are also looking to the future. Among the legislation up for revision is the Water Framework Directive. This lynchpin of European water legislation requires Member States to achieve good qualitative and quantitative status of all water bodies. Understandably, it affects all aspects of a water operator's work. We want to guarantee that the revision ensures a safe supply of water, not just for us, but for future generations too.

The future of water depends on a sustainable planet. This is why we chose to focus on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals for our 2017 Annual Conference. Water impacts on each of the UN's 17 goals, and we play a significant part in meeting them.

I am looking forward to leading EurEau for the next two years. We have a lot to do to ensure that we protect our water resources. We will deliver this with our members, partners and stakeholders as well as the EU institutions.

Once again I thank our 200 expert members for their support and invaluable contributions to achieving our goals.

Bruno Tisserand
EurEau President



Drinking Water



Our work in
2017

We covered
a wide
range of
topics this
year

...

The Drinking Water Directive

The current Drinking Water Directive (DWD) was adopted in 1998, and thanks to it, we have safe and clean water from our taps. The European Commission is proposing a new directive, which will further protect people's health.

The May 2017 symposium on materials and products in contact with drinking water was an opportunity for us to advocate for stringent hygienic requirements to be included in the DWD.

We support the revision of Annex I of the DWD and the risk-based approach. We invited the WHO to a EurEau seminar in February. We commented on the Commission's impact assessment study and we also submitted our comments to the DWD Roadmap; you can find all feedback [here](#) and our contribution [here](#).

We held a meeting with DG Environment under the framework of the targeted stakeholders' consultation in September.

The DWD was adopted by the Commission in January 2018. We will engage with the European Parliament and the Council of the EU to improve the Commission's proposal and better protect consumers.

Micro-pollutants



List of
positions

Our position paper
on source control for
micropollutants



Pharmaceuticals in the Environment

Environmental pollution caused by human and veterinary pharmaceutical substances (PiE) is a major concern for water operators. The costs of removing these can be very high, and this price is passed on to consumers through their water bill. We responded to the European Commission's [Roadmap on the Strategic approach to Pharmaceuticals in the Environment](#).

The Commission launched a public consultation on the topic in November 2017 to which we responded. It is due to publish its communication on a '[strategic approach to pharmaceuticals in the environment](#)' in the first semester of 2018.

Within PiE, the European Commission is also addressing the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

We contributed to the Commission's [public consultation](#) on a '[One Health Action Plan to support Member States in the fight against AMR](#)' and subsequent action plan. You can find our contribution [here](#).

EurEau Vice President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner spoke at the European Water Associations conference and Arjen Frentz, chair of our committee on drinking water, spoke at the European Water Partnership, underlining our views on the topic.

Endocrine disruptors

Endocrine disruptors (EDCs) are chemical compounds that mimic hormones and are found in a wide variety of everyday products.

The discussion on criteria for identifying EDCs continued in 2017. The debate around the definition to be adopted was tough and occupied the first half of the year. In July, the European Commission proposed criteria for both the Biocide Regulation and the Plant Protection Product Regulation.

The European Parliament blocked the process on the Plant Protection Product Regulation. The European Commission made another proposal in December. It will be discussed by the European Parliament in 2018. We call for the swift adaption of a clear definition based on the precautionary principle.

Agricultural policy



List of positions

EurEau
position paper on
**water and
agriculture**



Position paper on
glyphosate



Common Agricultural Policy

Agriculture can have a significant impact on the quality and quantity of ground and surface waters. Water quality may be negatively affected by the presence of pesticide residues, nutrients from fertilisers, or sediments from soil erosion. On average, 44% of total abstracted water in Europe is used for agriculture.

At the end of April, the European Commission published the Staff Working Document on '[Agriculture and Sustainable Water Management in the EU](#)', which will be used in the CAP review and to which we provided input. It was a joint DG Environment/DG Agriculture collaboration.

In May, the European Commission issued a roadmap on the [Communication](#) on 'Modernising and Simplifying the Common Agricultural Policy'. We [answered](#) the [public consultation](#).

The operational and rural development programmes for 2014-2020 were reviewed to measure their contribution to EU water policy (Water Framework Directive & Floods Directive).

While the European Commission will not table an official proposal on the CAP reform until 2018, it published a [communication](#) explaining how it plans to revise it. As it stands, the Commission will fail to clearly address nitrate and pesticide pollution of water bodies.

EurEau Vice President Dr Claudia Castell-Exner and the Secretariat met with the Commission (DG Environment) to raise awareness on the challenges posed to water resources and drinking water operators by nitrates.

We gave the Commission examples of how water utilities and farmers cooperate. These will support the Commission in rethinking the CAP beyond 2020.

The European Parliament Working group 'Water and Agriculture' of the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development organised a [meeting](#) on Water and Agriculture on 21 March where EurEau Vice President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner represented the views of water services.

Pesticides

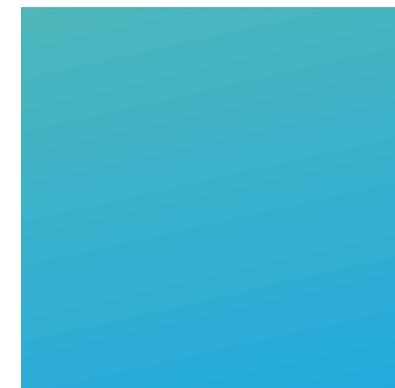
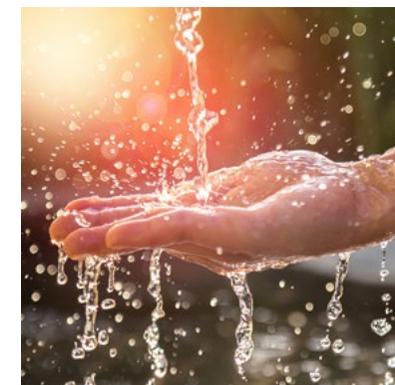
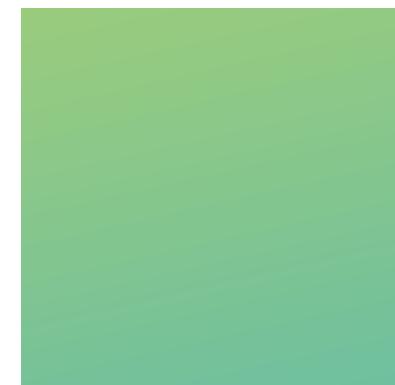
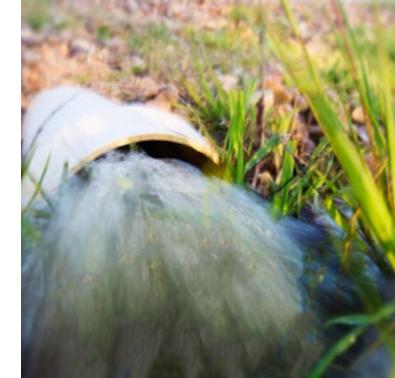
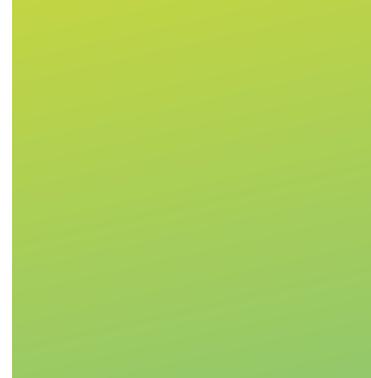
EU legislation requires pesticides to be effective and have no harmful effects. The European Commission has set maximum levels for residues that can be found in feed and food. Pesticide residues in water are subject to the Water Framework Directive.

The European Commission launched a survey concerning the [REFIT evaluation](#) of the pesticides legislation (Plant Protection Products Regulation) and the Maximum Residue Levels Regulation.

At the same time, the glyphosate debate raged on, concluding at the end of 2017 with the extension of its use for another five years.

We want to avoid potentially harmful molecules ending up in water resources, especially if they are used for drinking water purposes. We cooperated with the European Network for Rural Development who are working on how to better use the European Rural Development Funds. We participated in a working group looking at the sustainable management of water and soil. We will highlight the examples of cooperation between farmers and water utilities for water resource protection.

Eric Chauveheid (Vivaqua, BE) was at ECPA in November to highlight our concerns.



Microplastics



List of
positions

**Marine litter and
micropollutants**



While the effects of microplastics on soil and water are unclear, action needs to be taken to prevent them entering the environment in the first place.

A roadmap on '[Plastics in a Circular Economy](#)' looking, inter alia, at microplastics was published in spring. Following this, the European Commission launched a [stakeholder consultation on microplastics to which we submitted our position](#).

The Commission conducted a study on microplastics that are intentionally added to products such as cosmetics, paints, and detergents. We provided information on how restricting the use of microplastics would benefit waste water treatment plants and improve the quality of sludge.

A [parallel study](#) for DG Environment analysed microplastics generated during the life cycle of plastic products. Greet de Guedre, co-chair of the EurEau Committee on Waste Water, attended the July project meeting. At a dedicated workshop, we addressed the European Commission to highlight the performance of current waste water treatment technologies, the cost of end-of-pipe solutions, research needs and the necessity to apply the principle of extended producer responsibility.

We attended a stakeholder workshop and an EPA Net meeting on waste water treatment plants and their role in removing unintentionally released microplastics from the marine environment.

Members Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, SE), Arne Haarr (Norsk Vann, NO), Susanne Tumlin (Gryaab AB, SE) and the EurEau Secretariat attended the 'Microplastics conference' in Malmo in November.

We commented on the evaluation and impact assessment of the EU tyre labelling scheme, calling for mandatory labelling regarding abrasion.

The Commission will address microplastics in its Plastics Strategy. We are pleased to see that the Commission emphasises the control at source measures and highlights the Polluter Pays Principle.



Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive Evaluation Roadmap

There are 3 million kilometres of pipes in Europe's waste water network.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) was adopted in 2001. It has massively benefitted the environment since then.

The European Commission published the UWWTD evaluation roadmap this year, and the fitness check should be finalised by the end of 2018. It will assess to what extent the UWWTD is an effective piece of legislation. We submitted our comments.

Circular Economy



List of
positions

**Water and the
circular economy**



**Fertiliser
Regulation**



Water reuse

Water scarcity is a growing issue. The reuse of treated waste water can have significant environmental, social and economic solutions to this.

The European Commission is looking at legislative options for the safe reuse of water for irrigation in agriculture and will probably propose a legal instrument, only for irrigation in agriculture, in 2018. We are working with them to ensure that reused water meets safety requirements and economic viability.

The Joint Research Centre report on minimum quality standards generally reflects our views.

We **responded** to the Commission's consultation on policy options to set minimum quality requirements and participated in the March Commission workshop on the results of this consultation.

In April, we spoke at a workshop organised by DG Regional Policy on the territorial impacts of Minimum Quality Requirements for Water Reuse in Agricultural Irrigation and Aquifer Recharge.

We attended two meetings of the Commission's Ad Hoc Task Group on Water Reuse. Our member, Pier Paolo Abis (Acquedotto Pugliese, IT), attended the one held in June in Brussels while Iacovos Papaiacovou (The Cyprus Association of Water and Sewerage Boards, CY) attended the Cyprus meeting.

Fertiliser Regulation

The European Commission proposed a revised Fertiliser Regulation, opening the door to recovered fertilisers, especially organic fertilisers. Waste water is a rich source of nutrients that can be recycled or reused. Sewage sludge is a source of phosphorus as well as compost and digestate materials. We worked with the institutions to ensure that safest products may be traded at European level under the new regulation.

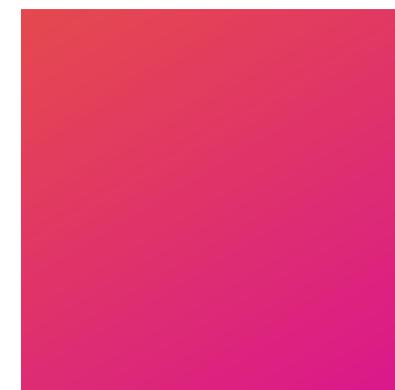
We also contributed to the interim report from the Joint Research Centre (JRC) on nutrient recovery rules for recovered phosphate salts, ash-based materials and pyrolysis materials in view of their possible inclusion as Component Material Categories in the Revised Fertiliser Regulation. The objective is to make sure that the rules developed by the JRC allow products recovered from sewage sludge to have access to the European Market.

We spoke at the European Parliament and at two ESPP conferences to underpin our views. EurEau President, Bruno Tisserand, spoke at World Water Week in Stockholm (September) about sewage sludge management in Europe and how these will change.

In October, the European Parliament voted amendments to the proposed directive. The changes – while not going as far as we would like – were a step in the right direction.

We developed a common position to make the proposal suitable for the market and encourage the recycling of phosphorus with the ESPP and its members. You can find it [here](#).

The discussion is now with the Council and the final text should come in 2018.



Infrastructure and security

We invest €45 billion annually into renewing infrastructure.

There is an increasing need for improved resilience to natural disasters and malicious acts. Many initiatives are underway at UN, NATO and national levels to do this. We want a coordinated policy approach.

As part of the [European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection \(ERNICIP\)](#), the Commission supported the development of [Water Security Plans](#) to protect drinking water supply from malevolent actions.

Although these plans are unlikely to become legally binding, we call on the Commission to adapt existing tools, such as the Water Safety Plans, to meet these new challenges.

A representative from NATO addressed a EurEau Executive Committee meeting on resilient infrastructure. We attended a NATO meeting in Bucharest in March. We met again with the Commission in September to discuss greater coordination between all European activities regarding the protection of water infrastructure.

We were at the European Commission's DG Justice and Home Affairs, speaking about European Critical Infrastructure.

Environment



List of positions

Customers and cost recovery: realising the Water Framework Directive



The need for greater EU policy coordination: realising the Water Framework Directive



Bathing Water Directive

The European Commission is assessing the implementation of the Bathing Water Directive. While water services are not directly responsible for implementing the directive, waste water operators have an impact on the quality of bathing waters and depend on its proper implementation by the competent authorities. We were consulted regarding how this directive works in reality.

Our input to the consultation related especially to the monitoring and combined sewer overflows. We attended the November stakeholder discussions.

Water Framework Directive and Floods Directive evaluation roadmap

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is an innovative piece of legislation that has had a significant impact on the quality of our water resources despite not achieving the targets set out in it.

The EU has already begun its review of the WFD. We are also working on it, as we believe it is the lynchpin to safeguard our water resources, now and for future generations.

The European Commission published the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive evaluation [roadmaps](#). We submitted feedback, supported by our JWG WFD.

A detailed public consultation will be launched in the first half of 2018.

Urban Water Agenda 2030

The Urban Water Agenda (UWA2030) is a joint initiative of the European Commission and European cities to safeguard Europe's water resources and strengthen the implementation of European Union water policies by fostering sustainable urban water management.

EurEau President Bruno Tisserand spoke at NBS2017, a flagship conference of the Estonian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

EurEau answered the public consultation of the UWA2030. We shared our views with EUROCITIES on the developments of water policy at EU level. We attended the June meeting on the Urban Water Agenda 2030 organised by EUROCITIES and ICLEI. You can find the draft strategy [here](#). We also attended the Conference 'Mayors and Water' in Porto in September.

List of position papers 2017



Fertiliser Regulation



Water and agriculture



The need for greater EU policy coordination: realising the Water Framework Directive



Customers and cost recovery: realising the Water Framework Directive



Other work in 2017

EurEau meetings

EurEau's Executive Committee met seven times in 2017. In April, we were pleased to welcome a presentation from Danish MP Kirsten Brosbol, former Minister of the Environment and current Chair of the Danish Parliamentary Committee on SDGs. She presented her views on how water services should contribute to implementing the Agenda 2030 goals in Europe and in third countries.

We followed up this discussion by hosting our plenary session of our annual congress on this topic. We welcomed Peter Koefoed Bjørnsen, Director of the UNEP-DHI Partnership in the Centre on Water and Environment, Marta Moren-Abat from the European Commission, and José Maria Villanueva del Casal, Technical Director at the Consorcio de Aguas Bilbao Bizkaia (CABB).

Our general assembly met in Paris on 11-12 May, where we elected the new executive committee, with [Bruno Tisserand](#) (FP2E, FR) staying on as president.

Top of Bruno's agenda for the next two years is to further strengthen EurEau's relations with our members and with the EU institutions. With the EU set to review and revise the water legislation over the coming years, communication and coordination with all parties are crucial to achieving the goals of the sector.

The second general assembly meeting, held in Bilbao, approved our 2018 budget.

We held nine EurEau Committee meetings.

26-27
January

Luxembourg

Waste Water
(EU2)

15-16
June

Dublin

Drinking Water

2-3
February

Lausanne

Drinking water
(EU1)

26-27
June

Budapest

Economics and
Legal Affairs

23-24
February

Nis

Economics and
Legal Affairs
(EU3)

18-19
October

Bilbao

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

1-2
June

Tromsø

Waste Water

Our Joint Working Groups – Innovation, Micropollutants, Reuse, and on the Water Framework Directive – were also active this year, meeting several times to further their topics.

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 met nine times this year.

Other meetings

Carla Chiaretti from the Secretariat spoke at the Expert Group meeting on equitable access to water and sanitation of the Water and Health Protocol of the UNECE/WHO.

Bertrand Vallet and Carla met the attachés of the Bulgarian Permanent Representation to the EU to discuss the plans on of Bulgaria for the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU (January-June 2018) concerning water. We also met with the Maltese and Austrian (December) attachés in advance of their countries chairing of the EU presidencies.

Carla spoke at a dinner organised by the European Parliament's SME Union on the topic of the SDG's.

Europe's Water in Figures

We published our updated '[Data Survey](#)' giving an overview of the state of water in Europe. We are pleased to see that there are higher connection rates, more pipes, more network, more investment, better recycling and better environmental protection than eight years ago. However, to continue delivering excellent services to consumers and protect the environment now and in the future, we need more investment in infrastructure.



EurEau and our members

Getting an insight into the national situation and the local perspective on the issues that affect our members' helps us better shape EU legislation, to best serve all consumers of water services. Working closely with our members is vital for us to understand their needs.

In January, EurEau Secretary General Oliver Loebel spoke at the OVGW symposium 'Wasserversorgung 2017' and met with the OWAV team. We also met with our Polish members in Warsaw.

In February Oliver met with the Bulgarian Water Association in Sofia. Carla Chiaretti and Oliver from the secretariat met with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia in Belgrade later in the month.

Bertrand Vallet from the secretariat visited Irish Water in March.

In April, EurEau President Bruno Tisserand and Oliver met with the new head of Water UK, Michael Roberts to discuss Brexit and water.

Oliver met the new Vewin CEO Hans de Groene in early May. Oliver and Bruno met with our Swiss member SVGW to discuss ways to strengthen cooperation. While in Switzerland, they met with VSA about possible collaborations.

Oliver attended the Aquawal General Assembly in June and Bertrand gave a presentation at the Belgaqua General Assembly. Carla was in Ireland, meeting more of our members from Irish Water.

In autumn, Oliver moderated a workshop organised by our German members BDEW and DVGW.

In October, Oliver met with a delegation from Unie van Waterschappen. Oliver also presented European Circular Economy legislation for water at Utilitalia's Festival dell'Acqua in Bari. Later that month, EurEau President Bruno Tisserand and Oliver met our Estonian member association, EVEL, in Tallinn. They also met with the Latvian water association [LWWWVA](#).

Oliver spoke at the DVGW congress in November.

Participation in European Commission Expert and Advisory Groups

Our member experts attend the Common Implementation Strategy 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.

European Commission Water Framework Directive Common Implementation Strategy (WFD CIS) (2016-18)

Strategic Coordination Group

This group prepares the meeting of water directors. It is a strategic group and will develop into a more political body where issues arising from the implementation of the WFD will be addressed.

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

ATG Article 4.7 guidance

- **FP: Ovidiu Gabor** (ARA, RO)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)

ATG Hydromorphology

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

ATG Water Reuse

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

Ecostat

- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (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, NL)

WG Chemicals

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

WG Data and Information Sharing

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

WG Ecological Status

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

WG Floods

- **FP: Michael Bentvelsen** (Unie van Waterschappen, NL)
- **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, DK)
- **CC: Rob Eijsink** (Vewin, NL)
- **CC: Alena Trancikova** (Asociácia Vodárenských Spoločností, SK)
- **CC: Wennemar Cramer** (Vewin, NL)

European Commission Expert and Working Groups (2016-18)

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, ES)
- **CC: Bruno Tisserand** (FP2E, FR)
- **CC: Benoit Hecq** (Belgaqua, BE)

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

- **FP: Dr Claudia Castell-Exner** (DVGW, DE)
- **CC: Dominique Gatel** (FP2E, FR)
- **CC: Jim Marshal** (Water UK, UK)

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, BE)
- **CC: Michael Bentvelsen**
(Unie van Waterschappen, NL)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

European Parliament Intergroup

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

We co-organised four meetings under this working group in 2017. It is chaired by Michel Dantin MEP.

The first meeting was on 'Water Governance Across Europe in Light of the Review of the EU Water Framework Directive'. EurEau President, Bruno Tisserand, presented our views.

'Water and Agriculture' was the topic for March. EurEau Vice President Dr Claudia Castell-Exner gave our perspective on how agricultural policy should be adapted to protect water resources.

In June the group met to discuss how [Europe is contributing to the implementation of the SDG6 in third countries](#). From EurEau, Gari Villa-Landa Sokolova (AEAS, ES) presented the cooperation between AEAS and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) to achieve SDG6 in Central and South America.

Michel Dantin and Peter Liese MEPs co-hosted a meeting on Pharmaceuticals in the Environment (PIE), in November, following from the European Commission's publication of the public consultation.

Other bodies EurEau participates in

ChemSec Business Group

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

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

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 Gueldre** (Belgaqua, BE)

EIP on Water Task Force

is the operational group that is in charge of implementing the objectives defined by the HLSG.

- **Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

European Benchmarking Co-operation

Foundation (Board) is one platform to perform benchmarking for water services.

- **Oliver Loebel** (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, NL)

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 programme.

- **Osmo Seppella** (FIWA, FI)
- **Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

WssTP Board of Directors

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

- **Jens Prism** (BioFos, DK) (board member)
- **Oliver Loebel** (EurEau) (General Assembly member)

Participation in research projects

Research projects are an important part of our members' work. We participate on the advisory boards in several that our members consider as particularly important.

These are the research projects that we contributed to in 2017.

INCOVER

- **Greet De Gueldre** (Aquafin, BE)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

POWERSTEP

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

PREPARED

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner (DVGW, DE)

SOLUTIONS

- **Dr Claudia Castell-Exner** (DVGW, DE)
- **Bruno Tisserand** (FP2E, FR)

SPREE

- **Dr Claudia Castell-Exner** (DVGW, DE) (tbc)

TOPPS

- **Dr Claudia Castell-Exner** (DVGW, DE) (tbc)

TreatRec

- **Sajjariina Toivikko** (FIWA, FI)

TRUST

- **Jan Peter van der Hoek** (Vewin, NL)

WATenERgy CYCLE

- **Oliver Loebel** (EurEau)

Media and outreach

The 2016 annual [report](#) was published in February. We held the first meeting of EurEau Communication Managers (ENCM) in March, with attendees from Ireland, Portugal, Denmark, Luxembourg, Spain, The Netherlands and our two German members.

Our [Water Matters](#) publication featuring articles on our work and our members was printed and delivered to our members and other stakeholders. All the articles are available on our [EurActiv blog](#).

Our Vice President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, was in Vewin's '[Waterspiegel](#)' talking about agriculture, nitrates and water.

Oliver Loebel was featured in a two-page article in Aqua Press International introducing EurEau and current EU policy initiatives.

We updated our [study](#) reflecting the true picture of drinking and waste water services in Europe. Bertrand presented the outcomes of our Data Survey in this [article](#) in Pan European Networks, including the need for greater investment in the sector.

Oliver published articles in the Vewin's Waterspiegel and DVGW's [energy|wasser|praxis](#) in October.

Radio Bilbao broadcast from our Annual Congress. They also made a short [video](#) to support this, discussing sustainability and cost recovery.

We also appeared in Water News Europe on [investments in infrastructure](#) and in Europa Decentraal on the [challenges](#) facing the water sector

We published and were quoted in articles in EurActiv on:

- [why sewage sludge should be included as a component material for fertilisers](#) from Arne Haarr, the Chairman of our *Working Group on Waste Water Resources*
- [endocrine disruptors](#).
- [precision farming](#) and about the [Fertiliser Regulation](#).
- EurEau Vice President Dr Claudia Castell-Exner made this [video](#) on the value of drinking water.
- EurEau President, Bruno Tisserand, wrote about the importance of [good sanitation](#), especially for women.

In addition, our views were included in a piece by ENDS on [water reuse](#) and [calling for tighter restrictions on nitrate use](#).

We issued a [press release](#) to mark World Water Day and another to announce our conference on how the water sector is meeting the [UN's Sustainable Development Goals](#). The report from the conference along with our recommendations is [here](#).

Our social media presence is growing all the time. You can follow us on Twitter at [@eureau](#), [Facebook](#) and [Linkedin](#).



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

A close-up photograph of water flowing out of a blue pipe. The water is captured in motion, creating a blurred, dynamic effect. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage. The overall scene is bright and clear, emphasizing the purity and flow of water.

Looking forward to 2018

We've said it before: the European water sector must face up to some profound challenge. To reflect this, we updated our list of the greatest challenges that the water sector must prepare for, adding a tenth challenge: 'Reinforcing the resilience of water services to security risks'. The fact that the rest of the list remained unchanged is a clear sign that the issues surrounding them have not been resolved and further work is necessary.

Many of our challenges will be addressed in the ongoing revision of the European regulatory framework for water. 2018 will be a key year in this process.

So what will 2018 bring us?

There are two important legislative proposals coming in 2018. The first of these is the draft revised Drinking Water Directive, published in February 2018. It should propose more stringent requirements in a number of areas; particularly on quality parameters.

The second expected piece of legislation is the Commission proposal on water reuse for irrigation purposes.

Both of these proposals will potentially impact our health and well-being. By improving the quality parameters for drinking water from its source to our glasses, we better protect our health. And by freeing up water resources that would otherwise go for crop irrigation, we ensure we have more water available for drinking supplies. We will have to work hard to guarantee that the final legislation for both will be fit-for-purpose, now and for future generations.

We can also look forward to the revised Fertiliser Regulation being approved at EU level and entering into force. Thanks to sustained efforts, we are keeping the possibility of including struvite and ash-based products from waste water plants as fertiliser components.

Aside from concrete legislative proposals, we will have to work on a more strategic level, in particular with regards to micropollutants and microplastics. How can producers be made responsible for the impacts of their products on the quality of water resources and how can the Polluter Pays Principle be applied? What is the role of other value chain members? In which circumstances can end-of-pipe solutions be supported? These are just some of the questions that need well-reasoned answers in response to the European strategy on plastics (including microplastics), expected for January 2018, and the European strategy on pharmaceuticals in the environment announced for late spring 2018.

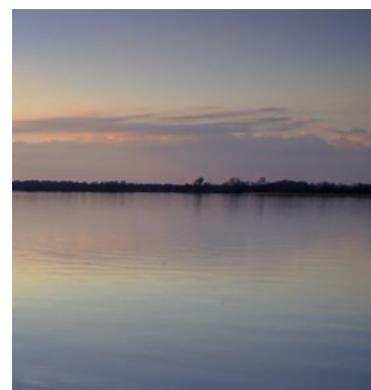
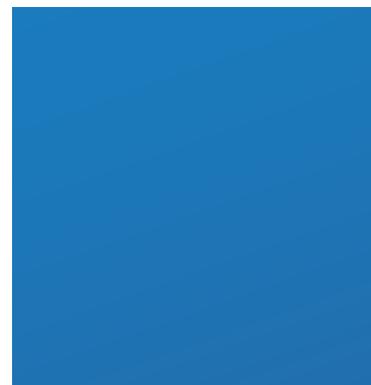
We will continue to be a reliable source of knowledge and expertise for the European institutions in 2018. The fact that microplastics and pharmaceuticals will be topics in the assessment of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive emphasises the need for qualified input. This assessment process will run throughout 2018 and should conclude in mid-2019.

We will also continue our discussions on another important piece of legislation: the Water Framework Directive. The Commission initiated a comprehensive fitness check and water operators need a clear vision of how the directive should evolve in the future.

Numerous other topics will keep us busy in 2018: the revision of the Common Agricultural Policy, the evaluation of the regulatory framework for pesticides, the implementation of the Nitrates Directive, the assessment of the European Critical Infrastructure Directive and the EU strategy on climate change adaptation to mention just a few of them.

Internal and external communication will be another priority activity. One key element will be the complete re-development of our website and the intranet.

Clearly, 2018 is set to be an extremely busy year. Our motivated Secretariat works hard to make our members voice heard at European level. Our strength as a reliable partner at European level depends on our members sharing knowledge and invest time in our network. We look forward to working with you in the next year.



Appendix

EurEau Executive Committee

EurEau Executive Committee Members



Bruno Tisserand
EurEau President
FP2E (France)



Dr Claudia Castell-Exner
EurEau Vice President
DVGW (Germany)



Carl-Emil Larsen
EurEau Vice President
DANVA (Denmark)



Giordano Colarullo
Utilitalia (Italy)



Mircea Macri
Asociatia Romana
a Apei (Romania)



Mariano Blanco Orozco
AEAS (Spain)



Anna Linusson
Svenskt Vatten (Sweden)



Stuart Colville
Water UK
(United Kingdom)

EurEau Committee Chairs



Arjen Frentz
Vewin (The Netherlands)

**Chair of the EurEau
Committee on Drinking
Water (EU1)**



Jean-Pierre Silan
Belgaqua (Belgium)

**co-Chair of the
EurEau Committee on
Waste Water (EU2)**



Greet de Gueldre
Belgaqua (Belgium)

**co-Chair of the
EurEau Committee on
Waste Water (EU2)**



Klara Ramm
IGWP (Poland)

**Chair of the EurEau
Committee on Economics
and Legal Affairs (EU 3)**



EurEau General Assembly

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

Carl-Emil Larsen

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

Giordano Colarullo
Utilitalia



Federation of Energy, Water and Environmental Services

Luxembourg

Raymond Erpelding
ALUSEAU



Luxembourg Association of Water Services

Malta

Richard Bilocca



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

Stuart Colville

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 - БАВ1 - 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 oboru 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	www.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 Wodociagi Polskie - Polish Waterworks Chamber of Commerce	www.igwp.org.pl
Portugal	APDA	Associação Portuguesa de Distribuição e Drenagem de Aguas Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services	www.apda.pt
Romania	ARA	Asociatia Romana 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-ZKG	Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije - Zbornica komunalnega gospodarstva 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

EurEau

The European Federation of
National Water Services
Rue du Luxembourg 47-51
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
T: +32 2 706 40 80

www.eureau.org

