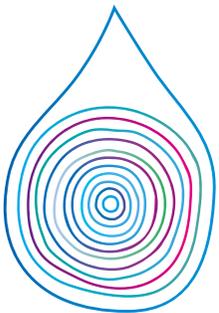


EurEau
**Annual
Review**

2018



EurEau







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Introduction from our President

Water, water everywhere

Except that is, during last summer, which was the warmest and driest many parts of Europe saw for over 20 years.

Given this, the publication of the European Commission's proposal for water reuse couldn't have come at a more apt time.

Water is a scarce resource. The proposal sets minimum requirements for agricultural irrigation. We support this, as long as the water to be reused is treated to an appropriate standard and that Member States can decide whether or not to reuse water at all.

This year we also saw the Drinking Water Directive proposal adopted by the European Commission, and be considered in the European Parliament and in the Council of the EU. The EU, like EurEau, takes consumer health and environmental protection seriously, not only now, but also for the future.

As the EU is reviewing and revising its breadth of water policies, we will see a lot more discussions on this vital resource.

Implementing a Control at Source approach not only protects consumers and the environment, but also develops a true circular economy.

If it is not possible to prevent contaminants entering the environment, the Polluter Pays Principle – through Extended Producer Responsibility – is necessary in the upcoming legislative reviews so that water consumers are not the ones who pay for extra treatment measures. Producers must be responsible during the full life cycle of their products.

The European Commission is already looking at the Water Framework Directive, which requires Member States to achieve good chemical and ecological status of all water bodies.

We have a lot to do to ensure that we protect our water resources. We will do this with our members, partners and stakeholders as well as the EU institutions and each of us with our national ministries.

We have a wonderful team of experts ready to give their valuable time and experience to making our water sustainable for all, today and tomorrow. Thank you to each and every one of you for your support and invaluable contributions to achieving our goals.

Because water matters.

Bruno Tisserand
EurEau President



Looking forward to 2019

New year, new European Parliament and European Commission, but our priorities remain the same: environmental protection, keeping people healthy, and investing in our water infrastructure.

Water is life. We need sufficient quantities of good quality water for health, clean environments and functioning economies.

We can see the success of EU water policy around us through cleaner bathing water, more life in our rivers and lakes, and every time we enjoy a glass of tap water. However, we are facing big challenges.

Climate change, water scarcity, pollution and agriculture all impact on our water resources, how we approach waste water treatment and the affordability of water services.

We want the next European Parliament members to prioritise environmental protection, citizen health and investment in our water infrastructure when legislating.

They will have a crucial opportunity to do so with the Urban Waste Water Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Drinking Water Directive all due to be revised or reviewed during the next legislature. These files are crucial to water provision and water protection.

Across all institutions, policies should be coordinated, and existing legislation, as enshrined in the EU treaties, fully implemented. We want to see Extended Producer Responsibility and that the polluter is held financially responsible for mitigating the pollution they are responsible for. EurEau will present detailed proposals as to how EPR can be applied to micropollutants and microplastics to complement effective control at source measures.

Because water matters.

Oliver Loebel
EurEau Secretary General

OUR WORK IN 2018

Legislative file

The Drinking Water Directive

Safe, wholesome and affordable drinking water is essential for a healthy life.

Our drinking water should remain of high quality and affordable for everyone. We continue working to ensure the final directive protects water consumers' health across Europe.

The European Commission adopted its [proposal](#) for the revised Drinking Water Directive (DWD) in February, covering four key areas: quality parameters, the risk-based approach, information to consumers, and access to drinking water for all. The new proposal removed Article 10 from the original directive which covered the requirements for materials and products in contact with drinking water.

Immediately following the release of the legislative proposal, the EurEau Drinking Water Committee (EU1) analysed the legal provisions, sharing insights, and evaluating the health and economic impacts of the proposal.

We held three ordinary and two extraordinary meetings, highlighting the significance of this directive.

Thanks to our experts', we were able to present a preliminary position to the Committee of the Regions as early as the beginning of March and reacted to the [ex-post consultation](#) by the Commission. We submitted data on the economic impact of the newly proposed measures of the Drinking Water Directive. The Committee of the Regions adopted its opinion, reflecting many of our concerns.





Between March and June, Carla Chiaretti from the EurEau Secretariat met with various MEPs to present our position. The members of the Water Lobby Group did the same and these coordinated actions allowed us to bring coherent messages from both the European and national levels.

We were particularly active on materials in contact with drinking water, as the legislative revision is the perfect opportunity to establish EU-wide hygienic requirements. It was a challenge to re-insert a provision that had been removed, explaining why this is of vital importance to EU policy makers.

Our General Assembly adopted our Drinking Water [position paper](#) in May.

In June we organised a site visit to the Vivaqua drinking water plant in Tailfer, Wallonia for the Council of the European Union delegations working on the DWD to demonstrate how drinking water is produced from surface water.

The vote in the European Parliament's ENVI Committee was held in September. We submitted our voting recommendations in advance of it.

Ahead of the October Plenary vote, we circulated our [voting recommendations](#) to MEPs.

We published a [joint letter](#) with EDW and ANEC in December asking the European Commission to match the European Parliament's and the Council of the EU's ambition to harmonise hygienic requirements in the DWD.

The negotiations in the Council are ongoing. An agreement between the European Parliament and the Council seems unlikely before the European elections in May 2019. However, the Council and the Parliament have accepted many of our suggestions.

Once the Commission issued its proposal, we issued a [press release](#) and Carla [wrote](#) in her EU matters blog.

Carla also wrote about the Drinking Water Directive for Vewin, one of our Dutch members', Waterspiegel magazine.

We participated in the May meeting of the *Agriculture and Water Management working group* within the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, chaired by MEP Michel Dantin. Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, EurEau's Vice President, presented our stance on the European Commission's proposal, highlighting the positive elements and those which need improvement.

Claudia maintained our visibility, speaking at the June UBA/European Parliament event on materials in contact with drinking water. She also wrote a [blog](#) piece for EurActiv and presented a [video](#) on why the EU should deliver safe and healthy water for all.

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, spoke at the Water Regulators (WAREG) General Assembly about the directive. Carla was one of the panellists in the sustainability forum organised by the Italian consumers' association Altroconsumo in September, presenting the Drinking Water Directive.

Carla wrote about the ENVI Committee vote in her [EU matters blog](#) while Claudia wrote an additional article for EurActiv on [why MEPs should vote to keep water bills from increasing](#).

Carla analysed the Parliament's Plenary vote on the 'EU Matters' [blog](#), and we issued a [press release](#).

In the days after the Parliaments vote on the directive, we were quoted in ENDS, and in Bloomberg Environment.



List of positions

EurEau position paper on the Drinking Water Directive

EurEau explanatory memorandum on the Drinking Water Directive



Legislative file

The Water Reuse Regulation

Water is a precious resource and water reuse reduces water scarcity. It should be available for reuse after appropriate treatment in the right circumstances, as it can have significant environmental, social and economic benefits.

We want appropriate and economically feasible quality standards so that water can be used in irrigation, guaranteeing consumer protection and promoting local jobs. The responsibilities for the reused water should be clearly defined and all actors should be responsible for preserving the quality of the water, in addition to identifying and managing the risks for their part of the project.

The European Commission published its much-anticipated Regulation for the Minimum Requirements for Water Reuse proposal in April. While it focuses on irrigation in agriculture, the aim is to protect our health by applying stringent requirements for the water quality and requiring a risk management plan to request a permit. We reacted to the publication of the requirements by submitting our comments in July. We support the promotion of water reuse and are working to improve the Commission's proposal.

The EurEau Joint Working Group on Water Reuse developed out position paper during the summer. Bertrand Vallet from the EurEau Secretariat, in conjunction with the Water Lobby Group further engaged with the European Parliament.

We participated in the October meeting of the Agriculture and Water Management working group within the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, chaired by MEP Michel Dantin (EPP, France). Bruno Tisserand, EurEau's President, presented our viewpoint on the European Commission's proposal, highlighting the positive elements and those which need improvement.

Most of our concerns were supported through amendments proposed by MEPs either for the AGRI opinion or the ENVI report.

The European Commission's Ad-hoc Task Group on reuse met in early May in Brussels and in late October in Milan. Both meetings were attended by the EurEau representative, Pier Paolo Abis from Utilitalia.

Bertrand Vallet from the Secretariat was quoted in Politico.eu on the topic of water reuse. He was invited by ESAMUR, a member of EurEau's Spanish member, AEAS, in November, to present EurEau's view on the regulation and the work of the European Parliament at a meeting in Murcia.



List of positions

Water Reuse



The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD) was adopted in 1991, bringing huge benefits to the environment by regulating the collection and treatment of waste water from agglomerations. It is being evaluated to assess how fit for purpose it is, and could open the door to the directive being revised.

Waste water operators are finding more and more contaminants in our waste water treatment plants influent. Contaminants must be prevented from entering sewers through the strict application of the Control at Source Principle in order to keep water services affordable. This will also facilitate resource recovery and the circular economy. If pollutants do enter the water cycle the Polluter Pays Principle must be applied.

Jean-Pierre Silan and Greet de Guedre, co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Waste Water (EU2), alongside Bertrand Vallet from the Secretariat, met with the European Commission's water unit in March regarding the UWWTD's evaluation. In any revision of this crucial directive, we want to see industrial waste water addressed, investments in replacing aging infrastructure and more innovation encouraged.

We **contributed** to the public consultation on the directive in October.

In October and November, we attended three expert workshops. Greet also spoke at the stakeholder conference organised by the European Commission regarding the coherence of the UWWTD with policies on the circular economy and climate change.

Over the year, our Committee on Waste Water started to look at how waste water services are involved in rural sanitation. The information our members are compiling should help to understand how we address individual appropriate systems in view of the evaluation.

We worked with our members to ensure that the Regulation on the Alignment of Reporting Obligations in the Field of Environment Policy, which modified the reporting requirement of the Sewage Sludge Directive was fit for purpose. If the obligations in the regulation were too stringent, it would have distorted the market for people using sewage sludge and those not using it.

Data disclosure requirements from agriculture should be holistic, and by working with the European Parliament, we facilitated the circular economy.

Bertrand was a member of the panel at the ENERWATER EU project final conference in October, presenting our views on the assessment of the energy efficiency of waste water treatment plants.

Bertrand spoke at the European Environmental Agency October workshop on antimicrobial resistance and urban waste water treatment plants.

Jean Pierre and Greet wrote about the importance of the UWWTD in [SciTech Europa](#).



List of **positions**

Briefing note on water and the Circular Economy Package

Micropollutants, microplastics and pharmaceuticals in the environment

Many micropollutants and microplastics are considered substances of emerging concern. They can end up in the water cycle through different routes. Removing these microparticles and substances from water may require additional treatments, the cost of which is passed on to domestic water users.

We need to implement control at source measures to prevent these substances from entering the environment in the first place and facilitate the development of a truly circular economy. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) must be implemented if the Precautionary and Control at Source Principles cannot be applied or do not suffice to prevent the release of micropollutants and microplastics into the environment. Using the Polluter Pays Principle will help ensure that consumers do not pay for costly clean-up actions.

The EurEau Joint Working Group on Pollutants is preparing a briefing note around the possibilities, limits and costs of end-of-pipe treatment. This briefing note complements our 2016 position paper on [source control for micropollutants](#).

Meanwhile, in June, the European Parliament and the Council agreed new rules to limit the spread of antimicrobial resistance. We support these regulations as they will reduce the amount of pharmaceuticals ending up in our water resources.

The Commission delayed the publication of its long-awaited strategic approach to tackling pharmaceuticals in the environment again during the summer. The strategy will not formally announce new legislation but rather hint at what the next Commission might decide to do. We called on the Commission to publish the plan in July.

There was a commitment by the European Commission to adopt the Communication under the Juncker Commission mandate and release the strategic approach early 2019.

In November, we [reacted](#) to the roadmap on the evaluation of the Industrial Emissions Directive.

We submitted amendments to the European Parliament own-initiative report on the sustainable use of pesticides, pushing for more water protection through control at source. Carla Chiaretti from the EurEau Secretariat wrote about it in the [EU Matters](#) blog.



List of **positions**

**Micropollutants
and the Control
at Source
Approach**



The European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy and the Directive on the Reduction of the Impact of Certain Plastic Products on the Environment (legislative file)

The European Commission published the communication 'A European Strategy for Plastics in a Circular Economy' in January. The goal is to reduce plastic waste and improve recyclability. At the targeted stakeholder consultation meeting in January, we promoted a holistic approach focussing on source control measures for microplastics, as well as implementing Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR). You can read more in our [comments](#) on the strategy.

We submitted proposals to the European Parliament's reaction to the strategy and met MEPs to raise awareness about the need to include the release of microplastics in EPR schemes.

The European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report on the [EU plastics strategy](#) in September. We broadly support this report but we want more EPR and use of the Polluter Pays Principle.

We are looking at how EPR can be applied to pollutants and microplastics from diffuse sources (chemicals, textile fibres, etc.). We met with the Tyre and Road Wear Particle Platform, as tyre particles are found to be one of the highly concentrated microplastics found in the environment, some of which end up in waste water treatment plants.

The Commission proposed a [Directive on the 'Reduction of the Impact of Certain Plastic Products on the Environment'](#) in June, essentially covering single use plastics. The directive introduces EPR schemes, labelling and awareness raising measures for highlighting the impact these products, including wet wipes, can have. You can read more in our [feedback](#) to on reducing single use plastics.

We met with MEPs to promote the inclusion of the sewer network in the EPR schemes. We provided information on the damage wet wipes cause to waste water infrastructure and the cost of repairing this to the European Commission and the European Parliament.

We developed a position paper calling for stronger measures regarding wet wipes. By July, the European Parliament issued its draft report from the rapporteur Frédérique Ries (ALDE/BE). MEPs supported stronger measures regarding wet wipes to counteract the damage they cause sewers.

The Parliament and the Council of the European Union reached agreement on the directive in December.

With the Commission's publication of its draft directive on the Impact of Certain Plastic Products in the Environment, we highlighted [the impact wet wipes can have in our sewer systems](#) in an opinion piece in EurActiv. We also published a [press release](#) for the vote.

EurEau Secretary General, Oliver Loebel, spoke at the European Parliament Intergroup on Climate Change, Biodiversity, and Sustainable Development meeting on 'Marine litter: What role for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?' in November.

Revolve media's magazine featured an [editorial](#) from EurEau President Bruno Tisserand on Extended Producer Responsibility. Bruno also wrote about [why the EU should implement more thoroughly the Polluter Pays Principle](#) and the Control at Source Principle in The European Files. Oliver was quoted on the microplastic debate, in Politico.eu.



List of [positions](#)

Directive for the Reduction of the Impact of Single Use Plastics on the Environment



Circular Economy

Waste water offers many possibilities to contribute to the circular economy through nutrient, material and energy recovery or water reuse.

EurEau strongly supports both the legislative elements and the Circular Economy Package. We want effective support measures for the European water sector, especially with regards to market access and financial support for innovative business models to recover materials and generate green energy throughout the water cycle.

As part of its Circular Economy Action Plan, the Commission launched a public consultation on **the interface between chemical, products and waste legislation in the framework of the circular economy**, focussing on the impact of hazardous substances potentially contained in recycled products. The European Parliament adopted a **resolution** in September, calling on the Commission to come up with legislation on substances of concern in recycled materials and harmonise end-of-waste criteria. Our reaction can be found [here](#).

We gave input to the related public consultation on **'Towards an EU Product Policy Framework contributing to the Circular Economy'**.

We signed a pledge in September to authorise the use of high quality and strictly controlled sewage sludge on farmland under the **Global Good Agricultural Practices (Global GAP)**.

EurEau was the lead coordinator for the session on *'Promoting a circular economy by building an enabling environment'* at the Brasilia World Water Forum in March. EurEau President Bruno Tisserand moderated the session.

Paula Lindell from our Finnish member FIWA was session rapporteur at the 3rd sustainable phosphorus conference ESPC3 on behalf of EurEau in April.

Kostas Kotoulas (EYATH SA, Greece) represented us in the panel discussion of the Powerstep workshop in IFAT in May.

In September, Bruno was in Tokyo representing EurEau at IWA, accompanied by many of our members. We co-organised a workshop on *'Reuse, recover, recycle – Accelerating Resource Recovery from Water'* with the IWA Resource Recovery from Water Cluster.

Oliver Loebel from the EurEau Secretariat attended the WATenERGY meeting in January in Cyprus. Caroline Greene from the Secretariat was at the WATenERGY meeting in Kozani in October.

In November, Aikaterini Christodoulou (EYATH – Thessaloniki Water and Sewerage Company, Greece) presented our experiences with nutrient management at **Ecomondo** in Rimini. Bertrand Vallet from the EurEau Secretariat and Arne Haarr from Norsk Vann, Norway, presented our **position** regarding sludge management and recycling of nutrients at the ESPP general assembly in early December.



List of **positions**

Briefing note
on the circular
economy

Legislative file

The Fertiliser Regulation

Sewage sludge is a rich source of nutrients that can be recycled as fertiliser. Control at source or recovery technologies will make sewage sludge an important contributor to the circular economy, if the EU agrees to include it as component material in fertiliser.

We believe that the Fertiliser Regulation should open the door to good quality sludge-based products.

We developed a [joint statement](#) with the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP) highlighting key issues identified in the European Parliament's report that would encourage the recovery and recycling of phosphorus in the Commission's Fertiliser Regulation proposal.

At the same time, we submitted input to the work of the STRUBIAS group to propose criteria for struvite and ash-based products that could be accepted in the Fertiliser Regulation. It is important that the criteria allow water services to recover nutrients from sewage sludge.

The Council of the EU and the European Parliament reached agreement in trialogue in December 2018.

Bertrand Vallet from the EurEau Secretariat was a member of the panel at the ESPP event on the Fertiliser Regulation in Brussels, in September. He presented our position and opinion on CE marked fertilisers with material coming from sewage sludge.



List of **positions**

Fertiliser
Regulation



Legislative file

The Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) is one of the key pieces of EU water legislation, protecting our rivers, lakes and groundwater. It is currently being evaluated by the European Commission.

Because of the slow response of ecosystems to change, we believe that the ambition of the WFD should be maintained after 2027 and that steps should be taken to improve communication on the progress achieved. We support the Commission in the evaluation process.

In May 2018, EurEau adopted its position paper on the [Post 2027 scenario – Realising the WFD](#).

The European Environmental Agency published its report [European Waters – Assessment of status and pressures](#) in early July. Only 40% of water bodies monitored between 2010 and 2015 achieved the minimum 'good' or 'high' ecological status set out in the WFD, with only marginal improvements since the first report was published in 2012. Carla Chiaretti of the EurEau Secretariat discussed the report in her 'EU matters blog' [here](#).

Our Joint Working Group on the Water Framework Directive held a number of meetings over the year, culminating in the group finding a workable compromise between our drinking water and waste water committees concerns.

We are participating in the Commission's consultation on the WFD as well as meeting stakeholders to ensure this vital piece of EU legislation continues protecting our water resources.

The media are beginning to raise awareness of the possible WFD revision, with ENDS quoting us in an online article. Revolve media's [magazine](#) featured Anders Finsson, Chairperson of our Joint Working Group on the Water Framework Directive discussing why the ambitious environmental objectives of the WFD should be maintained.

EurEau Secretary General Oliver Loebel spoke on the importance of the WFD at a EuroMetaux workshop in September.

In September, Anders represented EurEau during the [5th European Water Conference](#) in Vienna, speaking about 'Europe's Water Today'.



List of **positions**

Post 2027 scenario – Realising the WFD

Customers and cost recovery – Realising the WFD

The need for greater policy coordination – Realising the WFD



Agriculture

Agriculture can have a significant impact on the quality and quantity of ground and surface waters through pesticide residues, nutrients from fertilisers, or sediments from soil erosion entering the water system.

If we want to truly protect our water resources, agricultural legislation, including the next CAP, must create a strong link between the objectives of agricultural policies and the objectives of water-related legislation.

At the beginning of the year we contacted a number of MEPs working on an own-initiative report on the future CAP. The report is based on the 2017 communication from the Commission, to which we had commented.

The Commission's proposed revised CAP – published in June – is vague, particularly with respect to water protection. We met with several Commission representatives including the cabinet of the Commissioner for Agriculture in September, and with Commissioner Hogan in November, to promote the better protection of water resources in the Commission's agricultural policy.

We published a [position paper](#) on the CAP in December.

We submitted our response to the Commission's ex-post consultation on the CAP. We want clearer targets linked to conditionality and will work with the co-legislators to not dilute the environmental requirements.

The draft reports presented by the [AGRI](#) and [ENVI](#) Committee's rapporteurs will be voted before the end of March 2019. Approving the CAP will be the task of the next Parliament. It is encouraging to see that the ENVI committee took up a number of our proposals to strengthen the protection of water resources.

EurEau was the only non-governmental representative invited to speak at the *Agriculture and Water* joint OECD/Commission meeting in February, which focussed on both the quantitative and qualitative aspects of the water-agriculture nexus.

In March, Bertrand Vallet of the EurEau Secretariat presented at a workshop hosted by the European Network for Rural Development.

Our Vice President Dr Claudia Castell-Exner and Arjen Frentz, Chair of the EurEau Committee on Drinking Water (EU1), co-wrote an article for EurActiv on [why the next Common Agricultural Policy should do more to protect water resources](#). Dr Jim Marshall, Chairperson of our Working Group on Water Resources also voiced our concerns in this [video message](#) to policy makers.

Once the legislative proposal was published we met with relevant MEPs. We also commented in a [press release](#).

Claus Vangsgård (DANVA, Denmark) spoke at the *Water and Agriculture workshop* addressing diffuse water pollution through the post-2020 CAP in November.

Arjen spoke at the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU on *EU policies in addressing drinking water management challenges* in December. This was part of the closing conference of the FAIRWAY and Water Protect projects on 'EU policies addressing water and agriculture'.



List of [positions](#)

Water and
Agriculture



Investment

The European water sector invests €45 billion annually in renewing our infrastructure.

Europe's water infrastructure is aging. We need more investment in order to manage challenges and keep delivering safe and clean water to us all.

Our Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3) collected estimates for investments needed in the water sector for the next ten years from 15 countries, following a request by the European Commission.

We shared this information with the OECD as part of a study meant to inform the evaluation process of European water policy.

In July, we updated our [briefing note](#) on the OECD Model of the 3T's. In order to deliver water services in a sustainable way: all costs must be recovered through tariffs, taxes and/or transfers. This model

brings the necessary transparency to apply the 'Full Cost Recovery' in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.

Klara Ramm, Chairperson of the EurEau Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs penned a piece for EurActiv on why the EU should [invest](#) in our water infrastructure.

In May, Gari Villa Landa (AEAS, Spain) represented EurEau in the European Commission's workshop on investments in the water sector where the methodology of the OECD study was discussed.





Other topics

In January, at a high-level meeting on the Public Sector Information Directive, EurEau presented its position on water – as critical infrastructure – should not have to disclose sensitive information. We also submitted to the public consultation on the '[Evaluation of the 2008 European Critical Infrastructure Protection Directive](#)'.

We were interviewed as part of the European Commission's mid-term implementation review of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP Water), with our Joint Working Group on Innovation providing useful comments on drafting our responses.

We spoke at the workshop on water safety and security of DG HOME in March, and participated in the ERNCIP Water TG meeting on water security in December.

LIST OF POSITION PAPERS 2018

EurEau published five position papers and three notes in 2018.

**Post 2027 Scenario –
Realising the WFD**



**Drinking Water
Directive**



**Reduction of the
Impact of Certain
Plastic Products
on the Environment**



Water Reuse



**Common
Agricultural Policy**



**Explanatory
memorandum
on the Drinking
Water Directive**



**Briefing note
on water and the
Circular Economy**



**Update
on the 3T's**



OTHER WORK IN 2018

EurEau meetings

EurEau's Executive Committee met six times in 2018.

Our general assembly met in Rome in May and again at our Annual Congress in Limassol in November.

We held nine EurEau Committee meetings.

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

25-26
January
Stockholm

Waste Water
(EU2)

1-2
March
Hamar

Drinking water
(EU1)

5-6
March
Tallinn

Economics and
Legal Affairs (EU3)

24-25
May
Thessaloniki

Drinking water

31 May -
1 June
Helsinki

Waste Water

14-15
June
Oslo

Economics and
Legal Affairs

7-9
November
Limassol

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

Water Lobby Group

The Water Lobby Group is an informal group made up of professionals working for EurEau's members in the fields of European affairs, advocacy, corporate affairs and international affairs. The group meets monthly and is coordinated by the EurEau Secretariat. We encourage participants from national associations to attend. The group is essential to our work on legislative files, such as the Drinking Water Directive and the Regulation on Water Reuse.

Annual Congress

Our Cypriot member, the Cyprus Association of Water and Sewerage Boards, generously hosted the EurEau Annual Congress 2018 in November.

Our committees, working groups and joint working groups met to discuss pertinent topics.

The plenary session focussed on innovation in water services. The European Commission participated, highlighting the possibilities for water services to contribute to the research and innovation agenda. Our members also presented their innovative projects related to drinking water, waste water, and economic and management issues.



Meeting 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.

EurEau Secretary General Oliver Loebel was in Cyprus to meet our Cypriot member in January. He, likewise, met with our Austrian member ÖVGW in Brussels in March.

April was a busy month for meeting members. Carla Chiaretti met with Utilitalia, while Oliver Loebel visited our UK member, Water UK, to discuss Brexit, and to attend a joint meeting of the Water UK Drinking Water and Environment Advisory Groups. He also met with the board of administration of the Dutch drinking water association Vewin.

We met with one of our German members, BDEW in May in Brussels.

Oliver met our German members in June when he moderated a joint DVGW/BDEW workshop on EU water policy in Brussels.

Our Danish member, DANVA, visited us in Brussels in August.

Oliver attended the annual congress of Slovenian member, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry/ Chamber of Public Utilities in September.

We were joined in October by one of the Svenskt Vatten team members, Gilbert Nordenswan, for a two month secondment. The new CEO of Svenskt Vatten, Pär Dalhielm, met us in Brussels in early December to learn more about our work.

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) (2019-21)

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

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)

Chemicals (sub group on effect-based tools)

- **CC: Armelle Hebert** (Veolia/FP2E, FR)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)

WG Data and Information Sharing

- **FP: TBC**
- **CC: Dominique Gatel** (Veolia/FP2E, FR)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

WG Ecological Status

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

WG Floods

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

WG Groundwater

- **FP: Claus Vangsgaard** (DANVA, DK)
- **CC: Carla Chiaretti** (EurEau)
- **CC: Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)
- **CC: Dr Claudia Castell-Exner** (DVGW, DE)
- **CC: Rob Eijsink** (Vewin, NL)
- **CC: Alena Trancikova** (BVSAS, SK)
- **CC: Wennemar Cramer** (Vewin, NL)

European Commission Expert and Working Groups (2016-18)

Bathing Water Directive 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)
-

Drinking Water Directive expert group is made up of the representatives of national ministries dealing with the implementation and the revision of the DWD. Stakeholders such as EurEau have an observer status.

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

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 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)

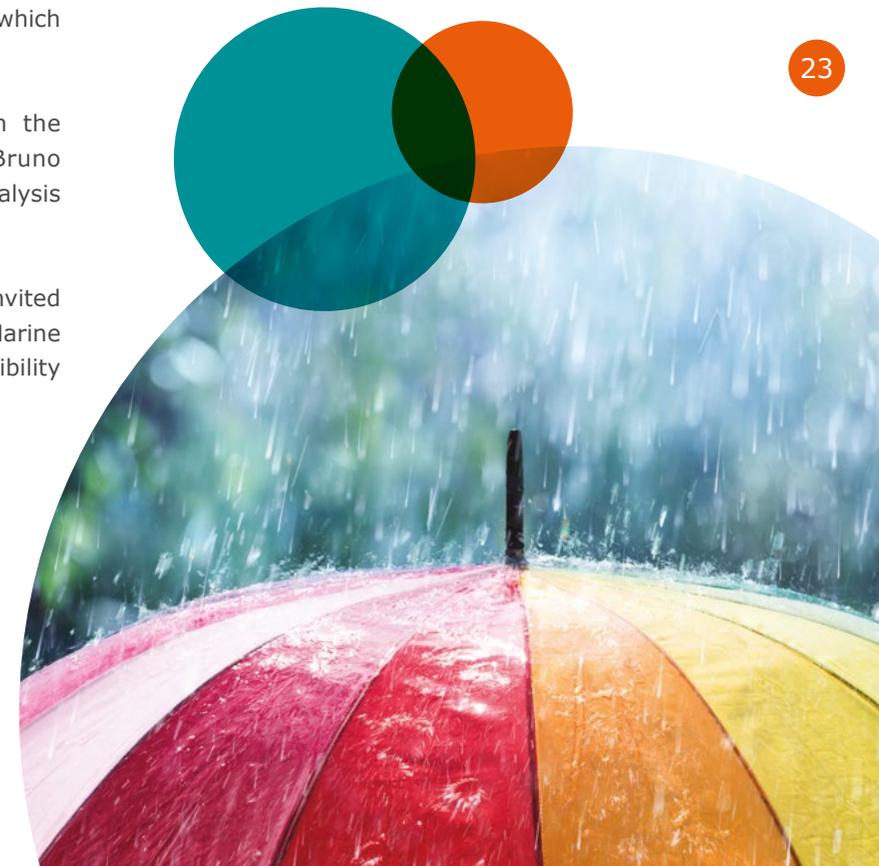
European Parliament Intergroup

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

We participated in the May meeting of the working group on Agriculture and Water Management, of the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, chaired by MEP Michel Dantin. Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, EurEau's Vice President gave our viewpoint, highlighting the positive elements of the proposal and those which need improvement.

The working group organised a meeting on the Regulation on Water Reuse in October. Bruno Tisserand, EurEau President, presented our analysis of the regulation.

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, was invited to speak at the Intergroup on the topic of 'Marine litter: What role for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)?'



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)

ERNICIP

The European Reference Network for Critical Infrastructure Protection (ERNICIP) provides a framework within which members share knowledge and expertise to harmonise test protocols throughout Europe, to better protect critical infrastructures against all types of threats and hazards, and to the creation of a single market for security solutions.

- **Miquel Paraira Faus** (Aigues de Barcelona, AEAS, ES)

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, 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 a platform that provides benchmarking for water services.

- **Oliver Loebel** (EurEau)

HELCOM

is the Baltic Sea Marine Environment Protection Committee.

- **Saijariina Toivikko** (Finnish Water Utilities Association, FI)
From 2-9/2018: Paula Lindell (Helsinki Region Environmental Services Authority (HSY) Finland)

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.

- **Manfred Eisenhut** (ÖVGW, AT)

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)

Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Hydrocarbons BREF

- **Dr Jim Marshall** (Water UK, UK)

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.

- **Bruno Tisserand** (Veolia/FP2E, FR)
- **Bertrand Vallet** (EurEau)

WssTP

is the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform.

- **Osmo Seppälä** (FIWA, FI) (board member)
- **Oliver Loebel** (EurEau) (EurEau Secretariat) (General Assembly member)

Participation in research projects

Research projects are an important part of our members' work. We participate on several advisory boards.

These are the research projects that we contributed to in 2018.

INCOVER

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

POWERSTEP

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

TreatRec

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

TRUST

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

WATenERgy CYCLE

- **Oliver Loebel**
(EurEau)



MEDIA AND OUTREACH

We launched our new [website](#) and intranet sites in May.

Our social media presence is growing all the time, up by around 25% from 2017. You can follow us on Twitter at @eureau, on Facebook and on LinkedIn.

On the publications side, we launched our [2017 annual report](#) in April. We also published a [report](#) on the governance of water services in Europe. This report provides a snapshot of the current situation of water services management in the 29 EurEau member countries and illustrates the diversity of management models, organisational structures, tasks and responsibilities of the players involved at the different levels of governance (EU, national, regional or local).

Apart from the keen interest in the report shown by MEPs and Member States representatives, the more than 3000 downloads is evidence the topic is highly relevant at the EU level. The report was compiled between 2016 and 2017 by the members of the EurEau Economic and Legal Affairs Committee (EU3) and in the Secretariat by Carla Chiaretti.

Off-line, we held a second meeting of Communications Managers (ENCM) from across our network, sharing experiences on communications in our associations.



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

APPENDIX

EurEau Executive Committee

Participation in EurEau Executive Committee Members



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)



Anders Finsson
Svenskt Vatten
(Sweden)



Stuart Colville
Water UK
(United Kingdom)



Bruno Tisserand
EurEau President
FP2E (France)



EurEau Committee Chairpeople



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 Guedre
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 members,
member associations
and websites**

COUNTRY	GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE	ASSOCIATION	WEBSITE	LOGO	
Austria	Raimund Paschinger	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	Alain Gillis (EurEau treasurer)	Belgaqua	Belgische Federatie voor de Watersector – Fédération Belge du Secteur de l'Eau – Belgian Federation for the Water Sector	www.belgaqua.be	
Bulgaria	Ivan Ivanov	BWA	Българската асоциация по водите – БАВ1 – Bulgarian Water Association	www.bwa-bg.com	
Croatia	Andrej Marochini	GVIK	Hrvatska grupacija vodovoda i kanalizacije – Croatian Water and Waste Water Association		
Cyprus	Iacovos Papaïacovou	CAWSB	Σύνδεσμος Συμβουλίων Ύδρευσης-Αποχέτευσης Κύπρου – Cyprus Association of Water and Sewerage Boards	www.wbn.org.cy	
Czech Republic	Ondrej Benes	SOVAK CR	Sdružení oboru vodovodů a kanalizací České republiky – Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic	www.sovak.cz	
Denmark	Carl-Emil Larsen	DANVA	Dansk Vand – og Spildevandsforening – Danish Water and Waste Water Association	www.danva.dk	
Estonia	Vahur Tarkmees	EVEL	Eesti Vee-ettevõtete Liit i.e. – Estonian Water Works Association	www.evel.ee	
Finland	Osmo Seppälä	FIWA	Vesilaitosyhdistys – Vattenverksförening – Finnish Water Utilities Association	www.vvy.fi	
France	Denis Bonvillan	FP2E	Fédération Professionnelle des Entreprises de l'Eau – Professional Federation of Water Companies	www.fp2e.org	
Germany	Dr Claudia Castell-Exner	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	Markos Sklivaniotis	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	Edit Nagy	MaViz	Magyar Víziközmű Szövetség – Hungarian Water Utility Association	www.maviz.org	
Ireland	Tom Leahy	CCMA	The County and City Managers' Association	www.lgcsb.ie	

COUNTRY	GENERAL ASSEMBLY REPRESENTATIVE	ASSOCIATION		WEBSITE	LOGO
Italy	Giordano Colarullo	Utilitalia	Associazione delle imprese idriche energetiche e ambientali – Federation of Energy, Water and Environmental Services	www.utilitalia.it	
Luxembourg	Georges Kraus	ALUSEAU	Association Luxembourgeoise des Services d'Eau – Luxembourg Association of Water Services	www.aluseau.lu	
Malta	Neil Kerr	WSC	Water Services Corporation	www.wsc.com.mt	
Norway	Arne Haarr	Norsk Vann	Norsk Vann – Norwegian Water	www.norskvann.no	
Poland	Klara Ramm	IGWP	Izba Gospodarcza Wodociagi Polskie – Polish Waterworks Chamber of Commerce	www.igwp.org.pl	
Portugal	Rui Marreiros	APDA	Associação Portuguesa de Distribuição e Drenagem de Aguas Portuguese Association of Water and Wastewater Services	www.apda.pt	
Romania	Mircea Macri	ARA	Asociația Română a Apei – Romanian Water Association	www.ara.ro	
Serbia (observer status)	Dalibor Joknic	CCIS	Privredna Komora Srbije – Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia	www.pks.rs	
Slovakia	Vladimír Jakub	AVS	Asociácia Vodárenských Spoločností – Association of Water Companies	www.avssr.sk	
Slovenia	Iztok Rozman	GZS-ZKG	Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije – Zbornica komunalnega gospodarstva Gospodarska zbornica Slovenije Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia – Chamber of Public Utilities	www.gzs.si	
Spain	Mariano Blanco Orozco	AEAS	Asociación Española de Abastecimientos de Agua y Saneamiento Spanish Water and Wastewater Association	www.aeas.es	
Sweden	Anders Finsson	Svenskt Vatten	Svenskt Vatten – The Swedish Water and Wastewater Association	www.svensktvatten.se	
Switzerland	André Olschewski	SSIGE / SVGW	Société Suisse de l'Industrie du Gaz et des Eaux – Schweizerischer Verein des Gas- und Wasserfaches – Società Svizzera dell'Industria del Gas e delle Acque – Swiss Gas and Water Industry Association	www.svgw.ch	
The Netherlands	Hein Pieper	UvW	Unie van Waterschappen – Dutch Water Authorities	www.dutchwaterauthorities.com	
		Vewin	Vereniging van waterbedrijven in Nederland – Association of Dutch Water Companies	www.vewin.nl	
UK	Stuart Colville	Water UK	Water UK	www.water.org.uk	

MEMBERS MAP





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EurEau

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