



EurEau

**Annual
Report
2021**



Water is at the heart of everything we do in EurEau, and it is beginning to take its place at the centre of what the European Union does, as highlighted in a meeting we had with Commissioner Sinkevičius in June.

January saw the Drinking Water Directive enter its transposition stage in EU Member States. Protecting consumers by delivering safe and healthy water to them is top of any and all drinking water operator priorities. This Directive gives consumers even more peace of mind through added protective measures under the risk based approach with responsibilities for all stakeholders in the chain from catchment to tap.

On the waste water side, we are about to see a lot of movement. The Commission is gearing up to review the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD). Much of the groundwork was already laid this year with consultations opening up between the European Commission and stakeholders, including ourselves.

We expect a lot from the review – mainly because a lot has changed in the last 30+ years since the original UWWTD. To begin with, our Waste Water Treatment Plants (WWTP) have increasing amounts of pollutants to extract from waste water, plus consumers are rightfully more demanding of the environmental standards around them.

Our work in 2021



We have also seen WWTP become important centres of energy generation that can make a significant contribution to Europe's climate goals and the Circular Economy if given the legislative environment to do this in.

One thing that will help WWTP achieve this is by preventing potential contaminants from entering the waste water cycle in the first place – something that can be achieved through the enforcement of the Control at Source Principle. If this is not possible, then (extended) producer responsibility schemes (EPR) should be applied to finance the additional treatment necessary to comply with the legal framework.

Reducing the release of potentially harmful contaminants into the environment benefits everyone, which is why we want an Industrial Emissions Directive that is robust enough to deal with pollutants. Both the IED and the UWWTD are strongly linked. Knowing which pollutants specifically we are dealing with will help WWTP operators better protect the environment.

Council and Parliament progressed on two resilience-related directives which will apply to the water sector: the High Common Level of Cybersecurity Directive (formerly NIS2) and the Resilience of Critical Entities Directive. While operators must be resilient to cyber and physical threats, the administrative and cost burdens - in particular for small operators - must remain proportionate.

These were not the only priorities this year. We also carried out a lot of work on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive, the Energy Efficiency Directive and the Renewable Energy Directive. These each have the potential to make significant contributions to impacting on how water operators work in the future.

Our health was the one issue driving the EU agenda in 2021 as the Covid-19 pandemic continued. Safe and reliable sanitation services helped manage the pandemic and protect people everywhere.

The EU Green Deal announced in 2020 had its details expanded upon this year. The Soil Strategy as well as the Zero Pollution Action Plan and the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change will help support a clean environment that will go a long way to protecting our water habitat. We are very proud to be selected to participate in the ZPAP Stakeholder Platform which will work to effectively mainstream the Commission's zero pollution agenda.

The Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability presented this year will prove to be instrumental as we face into the future. PFAS is a growing issue, and much of our work will centre around this and our drive to keep adequate reserves of safe, clean water today and for future generations. The EU Council and Parliament support the Strategy's call for a phasing-out of

PFAS-containing products unless their use is 'proven' to be essential. We want to go beyond this and call for a total ban of PFAS.

Once again, this was a busy year, and we in EurEau have a lot more to do. Our members are key to our success. We can only achieve our goals thanks to our amazing and helpful expert members. We are grateful that they continue to support us even if in-person meetings have been impossible. I thank each of you for your continued essential contributions to our meetings and papers. You give your time and expertise generously. We cannot achieve what we do without your input. Our connectedness and knowledge are the essence of what EurEau is. We have proven time after time that working together and sharing our experience, we can – and do - achieve more.

And finally, I save a special word of tremendous gratitude for our outstanding EurEau Secretariat for their continued support and invaluable work both in front of and behind the scenes. Thank you for all your work especially in these challenging and busy times. Chapeau!



DR CLAUDIA CASTELL-EXNER
EurEau President

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Policy work

WHAT WE WANT

Water resources need to be protected and the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and its 'daughter Directives' should be mainstreamed in various sectoral legislation. We want the pollutants lists to be based on solid data and trigger control-at-source measures to ensure compliance.

Water Legislation

The Water Framework Directive, the Groundwater Directive and the Environmental Quality Standards Directive

Member States are required to protect and improve water quality in all waters and achieve good ecological status by 2027 under the Water Framework Directive.

The Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) identifies 'priority substances', for which standards have to be fulfilled in surface waters and whose emissions have to be reduced or (in the case of priority hazardous substances) phased out. The Groundwater Directive (GWD) sets standards for pesticides and nitrates in groundwater, and identifies other substances for Member States to consider setting thresholds.

The pollutants lists of these three pieces of legislation are being revised and the Commission should adopt a legislative proposal in the second semester of 2022.

What we did

We [responded](#) to the European Commission's public consultation and the expert's survey within the framework of the revision of the pollutants lists.

We participated in the CIS process through the Commission's Chemicals Working Group. We also worked on the quality standards through our involvement in the JRC's work. Regarding aquifer recharge, we input to the guidance developed by the CIS Groundwater Working Group.

Meetings and communications

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, spoke at the DVGW committee on water quality.

EurEau President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner was interviewed about water quality for the [EUWID](#) publication.

Carla Chiaretti, EurEau Head of Policy, spoke at the European Commission Green Week event in June about the implementation of water legislation in the session 'Water legislation on the ground – flowing freely or clear as mud'.

Klara Ramm, Chairperson of our Joint Working Group on the Value of Water Services, participated in our podcast, Water Matters, on [why we should value our water services](#).

“
Member States are required to protect and improve water quality in all waters and achieve good ecological status by 2027”

Environmental Quality Standards for pharmaceuticals

Realising the WFD - Post 2027 Scenario

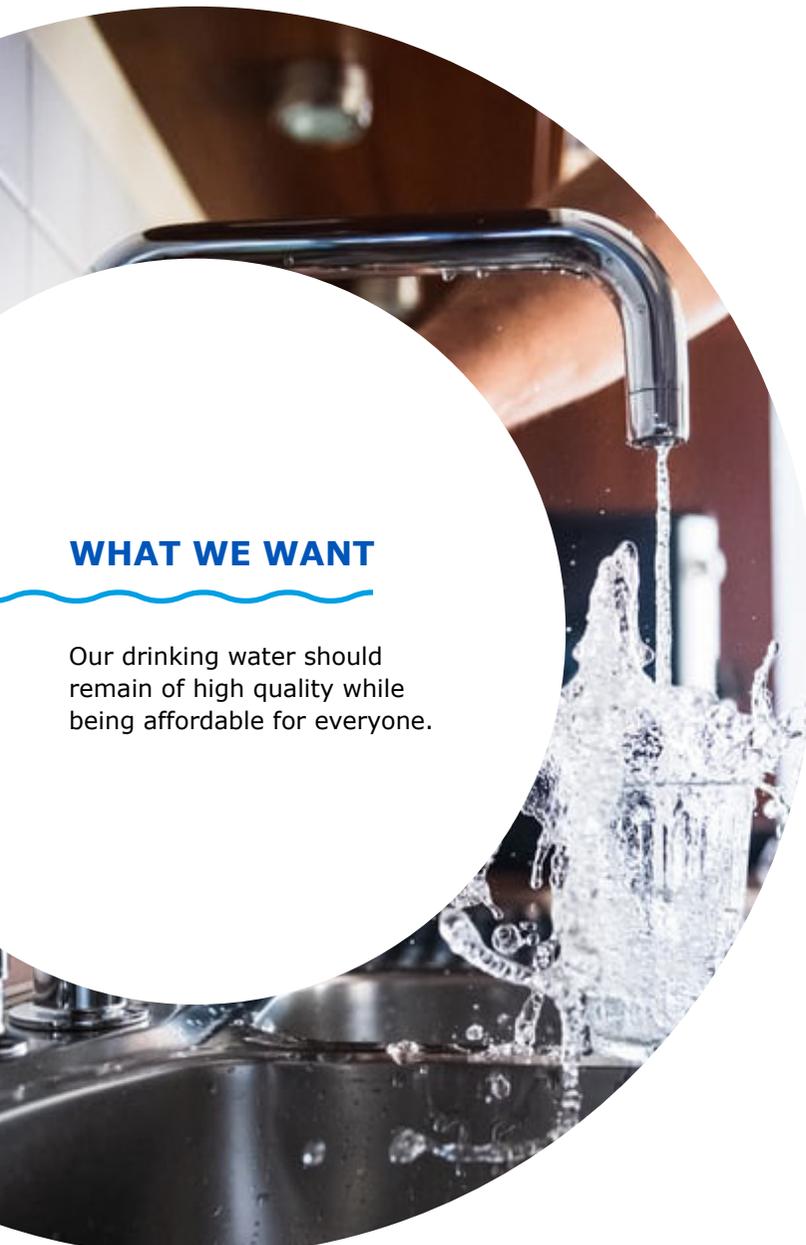
Realising the WFD - Customers and Cost recovery

Realising the WFD - The Need for Greater Policy Coordination

The Weser Ruling and its effects on UWWTP

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES





WHAT WE WANT

Our drinking water should remain of high quality while being affordable for everyone.

Drinking Water Directive

The EU's new Drinking Water Directive (DWD) addresses and improves the quality of drinking water for consumers.

The adopted legislation will enable European water services to continue providing safe and affordable drinking water to consumers although the impacts of some elements have still to be clarified at national level.

What we did

The Drinking Water Directive entered into force in January 2021. Member States have two years to transpose it.

Eric Chauveheid (Belgaqua, Belgium), Miquel Pareira (AEAS, Spain) and Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) attended the Drinking Water Directive Expert Group where the Commission and Member States representatives exchange on the transposition and the implementation of the DWD.

We drafted a [note](#) on the Watch List under the new DWD and shared it with the European Commission. They adopted the first Watch List in January 2022.

Meetings and communications

We participate in the European Commission's Drinking Water Expert's Group.

Carla Chiaretti wrote an article on the new Drinking Water Directive that was included in the magazine to accompany the 10th Communal Economy Conference held by our Slovenian member, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia - Chamber of Public Utilities. She also presented the new DWD provisions at the conference.

You can read Carla's article in [English](#), [German](#) or [Slovenian](#).

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, EurEau President, was interviewed by Gelsenwasser AG about chemical substances and drinking water. You can watch the video [here](#).

We spoke to Carla for our Water Matters podcast about how and why our water services are governed. You can listen back to the episode [here](#).

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

PFAS and
drinking water

The Drinking
Water Directive

Explanatory
memorandum
on the Drinking
Water Directive

The DWD final
agreement
(internal)

Drinking
water supply
and leakage
management

The impact
of drought on
drinking water





WHAT WE WANT

This policy must enable Waste Water Treatment Plants to become resource factories while protecting public health and the environment, and ensure the affordability of their services. We published a [statement](#) on our expectations for the urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD).

Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

The Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.

What we did

2021 was very busy, with the Commission running the impact assessment of the Directive. We input to this, with several meetings with our members and developed many position papers and briefing notes (see below) covering all relevant aspects likely to be addressed in the future Directive.

Our members collected data on the costs associated with the implementation of the current UWWTD in order to have a good economic evaluation for the Impact Assessment associated with its revision.

We [responded](#) to the public consultation and added some [complimentary notes](#).

Meetings and communications

We participated in the European Commission's workshops with Member States and stakeholders on the policy options under the UWWTD.

Bertrand Vallet, EurEau Senior Policy officer, presented the uses for treated sewage sludge other than agriculture at a workshop organised by the European Commission on 'Waste water and sludge: how to integrate in the circular economy and support new energy and climate ambitions?'

Michael Bentvelsen, co-chairperson of our Committee on Waste Water, presented our paper on integrated waste water management at a European Commission workshop on this specific topic.

Bertrand spoke at the Danube Water Programme Webinar 'Cleaning Up: The Review of the EU Urban Waste Water Directive', presenting our views on the UWWTD review process. You can find more [here](#).

Oliver Loebel (EurEau) spoke at the ÖWAV Waste Water Conference on the EurEau goals in the review process of EU waste water rules.

Strategy

The EU Methane Strategy

Adopted in October 2020 as part of the European Green Deal, it focuses on cross-sectoral actions as well as on specific actions in the energy, agricultural, waste and waste water sectors to reduce methane emissions within the EU and globally.

EurEau supports efforts to quantify and reduce methane emissions from waste water and sludge-related activities.



This policy must enable Waste Water Treatment Plants to become resource factories while protecting public health and the environment.



POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES



Nutrients and
waste water
management

Integrated
Waste Water
Management
Plans

The management
of waste water
and storm water
networks

Small
agglomerations
in the UWWTD

What is a sewer
network

The Weser
Ruling and
its effects on
UWWTP

Reducing the
energy footprint
of the water
sector

Individual
and other
Appropriate
Systems
(IAS)

Overflows
from collecting
systems

WHAT WE WANT

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

Water reuse & the Sewage Sludge Directive

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

What we did

We contributed to the evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive by collecting information from members and answering consultations. We had met several times with the responsible Commission services.

We answered the [targeted stakeholder's survey](#) and the [public consultation](#) on the Sewage Sludge Directive.

As regards water reuse, we continue our active involvement in the CIS Water Reuse ATG and contributed to work on the guidance of the implementation of the Regulation as well as the guidance on the risk management plan developed by the JRC.

Meetings and communications

The Joint Research Centre organised a workshop to present examples of risk assessment for water reuse in irrigation

in agriculture currently applied in some Member States. We were represented with an example from Barcelona.

Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) and Anders Finnson, chairperson of our Joint Working Group on the Water Framework Directive, spoke at a workshop organised by the European Commission on 'Waste water and sludge: how to integrate in the circular economy and support new energy and climate ambitions?'

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, spoke at the Sewage Sludge Congress of the German Waste Water Association DWA.

We co-signed a [letter](#) together with the European Sustainable Phosphorus Platform (ESPP) and addressed to the European Commission, encouraging them to extend end-of-waste (EoW) criteria to materials recovered from waste water streams.

Bertrand presented how water services contribute to the circular economy in the EU at the online training session hosted by the Florence School of Regulation.

Strategy

Circular Economy Action Plan

This plan aims to make circularity the mainstream in our lives and speed up the green transition of our economy. It proposes a more sustainable approach to chemical substances, plastics, textiles, ensuring the functioning of the market for secondary raw materials and improving synergies to mitigate

climate change, all of which are concerns for the water sector.

We worked with European Parliament members, putting the focus on reusing water for irrigation in agriculture and on the capacity to recover materials from waste water. You can find the [report](#) here.

The European Commission is looking at defining EU EoW criteria for certain waste streams as part of the Circular Economy Action Plan.

We developed factsheets together with stakeholders on EoW criteria and why it's vital that EoW criteria are extended to waste water. We show that products recovered from waste water treatment streams have a real market value and could support the European economy if given the go-ahead.

Factsheet on products from waste water algae biomass

Factsheet on products from waste water fibres and polymer

Factsheet on products from waste water minerals

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES



WHAT WE WANT

Waste water operators have a key role to play in preserving our bathing waters clean and safe. We want the Directive to retain its current scope while applying the WHO recommendations and keeping the Directive focused on the health of bathers.

Bathing Water Directive

The Bathing Water Directive (BWD) requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water for at least two parameters of (faecal) bacteria. They must inform the public about bathing water quality and beach management.

What we did

The Commission launched the revision of the Directive in March 2021. We sent our [response](#) to the Commission’s roadmap of the BWD. We also responded to the [public consultation](#). We maintain that the definition of “bathing site” needs strengthening, while the data quality control could be improved.

We support the WHO recommendations and call on the Commission to implement them in the revised BWD.

Meetings and communications

We participated in the European Commission’s workshop on the revision of the Bathing Water Directive and in the Commission’s Bathing Water Expert Group.



“
The definition of
“bathing site” needs
strengthening, while
the data quality control
could be improved.”

Water & the environment

Climate change and energy

WHAT WE WANT

The European water sector works to achieve climate neutrality, in line with the EU targets. An enabling regulatory framework is paramount. One supportive action is the application of the Precautionary and Control-at-Source Principles so that neither drinking water resources nor waste water contain hazardous substances, the removal of which may require energy- and resource-intensive technologies.

As well as climate change mitigation, the water sector needs to adapt to its consequences.

EU Climate Legislation

EU climate targets are integrated into all new legislation. The European Climate Law sets a binding EU greenhouse gas reduction target of at least 55% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels. It also sets a goal of climate neutrality by 2050, with negative emissions after this date.

What we did

With world leaders meeting in Glasgow under COP26 to decide how to tackle climate change, we issued a [statement](#) on needing actions from our world leaders.

Together with Water UK and many other international associations, we [called](#) for governments and the global water industry to commit to working together to tackle process emissions, which constitute around half of the water sector's total emissions.

By working together, governments can help to secure long-term funding to enable water companies to go further and faster in reducing processing emissions.

Climate change is directly and significantly affecting each and every one of us. World leaders meeting under COP26 must address water services if they are to mitigate and adapt to the changing climate around us. We [reminded](#) policy makers across Europe to treat water services as a priority when developing legislation.

Meetings and communications

EurEau president, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner spoke at the 'Global workshop on building climate resilience through improving water management at sanitation at national and transboundary levels' on the topic of 'Water operators and climate change -

why we need the involvement of all stakeholders to ensure resilient water infrastructure’.

Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) participated in a panel discussion on carbon neutrality as part of the Climate Neutrality World Water Tech Innovation Summit.

We co-hosted a meeting with the European Parliament Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development on the urgency to step up climate adaptation action.

Oliver Loebel (EurEau) spoke at this event. Water operators’ response to climate change needs to encompass both mitigation and adaptation. We spoke to Gilbert Nordenswan from Svenskt Vatten to discuss why climate change matters for the ‘Water Matters’ podcast.

Strategy

Climate Adaptation Strategy

The EU Climate Adaptation Strategy was adopted, with water protection a priority. You can read more in Carla’s [blog](#) piece.

We are pleased that the Commission is raising its efforts on climate change and included several elements that we had proposed in the Strategy. The Strategy includes information on the climate related risk of drinking water, protection of water resources, Risk Based Analysis (RBA) for drinking water supply, the cross-border effect, water allocation, water saving, eco-design, Combined Sewer overflows (CSOs) and Nature Based Solutions (NBS).

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

Energy and greenhouse gas emission reduction objectives for the European water sector under the UWWTD

The impact of drought on drinking water

Climate change and water services: adapting to the consequences

Energy and Greenhouse Gas emission reduction objectives for the European water sector under the UWWTD





WHAT WE WANT

EurEau supports the general objective of the EED and the RED as a means to achieving energy and climate neutrality. Water service providers have a significant renewable energy generation potential. Policy must offer a supportive legislative framework and remove barriers to its generation and injection in the grid.

The EED is not adapted to the water sector. We see the UWWTD, which is under revision, as the legislative tool to bring the water sector towards climate neutrality.

Renewable Energy Directive & Energy Efficiency Directive

The new Renewable Energy Directive (RED) proposes rules for the EU to achieve a 40% renewables target by 2030 while the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) calls for energy savings and energy efficiency, with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% and contributing to other Green Deal initiatives.

What we did

We responded to the public consultations on the RED and the [EED](#).

The Commission adopted a proposal for the RED and EED Directives in July 2021 and we submitted feedback.

We also worked on energy topics under the UWWTD ([page 9](#)) and organised an internal webinar on the impact of high energy prices on water services.

Meetings and communications

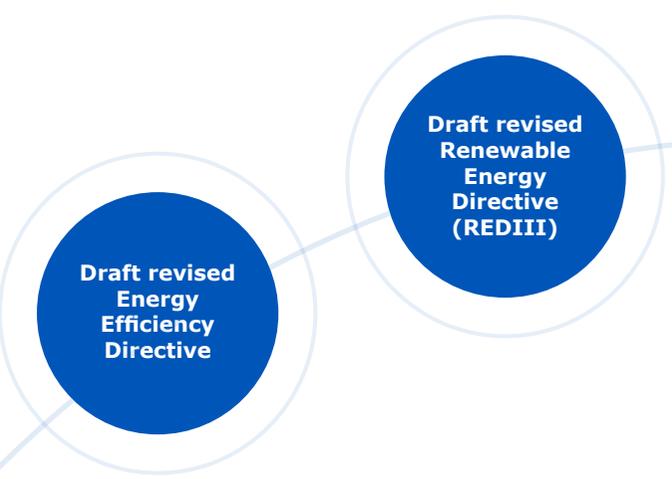
We continue to work closely with the EU institutions on these files.

Strategy

Fit-for-55

This package outlines how Europe aims to become climate neutral by 2050 and targets both people and companies. The package aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030 and raise targets for energy efficiency, renewables and renovations. We [reacted](#) to it.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES



WHAT WE WANT

We want guaranteed access for bio-methane to the gas networks, a sound renewable certification system (Guarantee of Origin) and gas quality standardisation.

In addition, UWWTP have to be connected to the hydrogen economy, should suitable technologies become available.

Regulation on the Internal Markets for Renewable, Natural Gases & Hydrogen

Biogas produced at the urban waste water treatment plants (UWWTPs) can be upgraded into bio-methane and should play a role in the substitution of fossil gases by renewable alternatives. Financial and regulatory support for this must be strengthened.

What we did

We reacted to the Commissions public consultation on the review of the Hydrogen and Gas Market. The proposal is very much in line with our views.

Draft revised
Renewable
Energy Directive
(REDIII)

**POSITION PAPERS
AND BRIEFING NOTES**

Plastics and the environment

WHAT WE WANT

Plastics products should never be disposed of through the toilet. We want the producers of wet wipes and other single use plastic items to accept responsibility for their products when they become waste. Along with financing awareness raising campaigns, they should also contribute to the costs of removing wet wipes from waste water infrastructure.

Single Use Plastics Directive

Many single use plastics are currently not recycled. A significant share of these are not properly disposed of and end up in the environment or in the waste water network.

For the water sector, this usually results in sewers clogged with wet wipes and blocked system pumps.

The Single Use Plastics (SUP) Directive introduces restrictions and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes for a number of single use plastic products from beverage cups to cotton buds, including wet wipes.

What we did

We prepared a paper on the costs caused by single use plastics in waste water infrastructure, and summarised the national implementation of EPR schemes covering the costs of littering. The document was sent to the responsible Commission services to support the development of a guidance paper on the cost of littering.

Strategy

Strategy for Sustainable Textiles and Environmental Footprint of Apparel and Shoe wear

This strategy aims to help the EU shift to a climate-neutral, circular economy where textiles are designed to be more durable, reusable, repairable, recyclable and energy-efficient. It will also address micro-fibre release from synthetic garments and chemicals used for the production of textiles.

We submitted feedback to the Commission's roadmap, insisting on precautionary and control-at-source measures to minimise the release of synthetic fibres and hazardous chemicals - including PFAS and biocides - from textiles. We also responded to the public [consultation](#).

WHAT WE WANT

We call for strong measures to mitigate microplastic emissions at the source. While WWTPs remove almost all microplastics from waste water, a substantial part are transferred to the sludge and limits circular economy options. If downstream measures become unavoidable, EPR schemes must cover their costs.

Microplastics

Microplastics are solid plastic particles composed of mixtures of polymers and functional additives. They may also contain residual impurities.

Microplastics can be unintentionally formed when larger pieces of plastic, like car tyres or synthetic textiles, wear and tear. But they are also deliberately manufactured and added to products for specific purposes, such as exfoliating beads in facial or body scrubs.

What we did

We participated in the European Commission study on reducing the unintentional release of microplastics from tyres, textiles and pellets in preparation of legislative measures (stakeholder meetings, direct discussion with consultants).

We also participate in the Tyre and Road Wear Particles Platform.

Meetings and communications

We co-organised a meeting of the European Parliament Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development that we sponsor, together with the EPR Club and ACR+ to talk about 'EPR as an instrument to tackle microplastic pollution'. EurEau Secretary General, Oliver Loebel, spoke on EPR and presented the Deloitte/EurEau study. Anders Finnson, chairperson of our JWG on the WFD, also spoke at this event.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

“ If downstream measures become unavoidable, EPR schemes must cover their costs. ”

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

The Impact of Certain Plastic Products on the Environment

Microplastics and the water sector

Water and the Circular Economy Package



Pollutants, pharmaceuticals and mercury in the environment

Why we need zero pollution

WHAT WE WANT

We want micropollutants in the environment to be dealt with in a holistic manner by all stakeholders involved along a products entire life cycle starting from strong precautionary and control at source measures. Given their persistency, all uses of PFAS should be phased out rapidly. The REACH restriction initiated by five Member States must lead to zero PFAS emissions into the environment.

PFAS, the Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Chemicals Regulation and the REACH Regulation

The Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP Regulation's purpose is to ensure a high level of protection, as well as the free movement of substances, mixtures and articles in the EU.

The current revision aims to position the CLP as the overarching instrument for EU chemical legislation through the establishment of hazard classes EDC, PBT, vPvB, PMT and vPvM, and the criteria to assess these hazardous properties, together with the 'One Substance-One Assessment' Principle.

The Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation addresses the production and use of chemical substances, and their potential impacts on both human health and the environment.

What we did

We reacted to the Roadmap on the revision of the CLP Regulation. We also [reacted](#) to the public consultation.

We input to the Caracal definition of PMT (persistent, mobile and toxic) substances.

We responded to the Initial Impact Assessment (IIA) on the REACH revision. We became an ECHA accredited stakeholder (Risk Assessment and Socio-Economic Analysis Committees).

We shared feedback on the roadmap on the revision of the Mercury Regulation in order to reiterate our call for the phase-out of dental amalgam.

We set up a cross-committee Task Force to work on PFAS. It is chaired by Jos van den Akker (Vewin/Unie van Waterschappen, the Netherlands).

We met with stakeholders to discuss how we can move forward on these important legislative files.

Meetings and communications

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, EurEau President, spoke at the German Environment Agency (UBA) and the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) third PMT workshop on 'Getting control of PMT and vPvM substances under REACH'.

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, presented at Green Week 'Farewell PFAS:

Can we remove PFAS from our drinking water and what are the challenges?'

Oliver also spoke at 'Economy of a Water City' about the need to take a full life cycle approach when talking about micropollutants, with the Precautionary Principle and source control as starting points, with other measures at other levels based on cost-benefit analysis.

The European Parliament Intergroup Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development, together with EurEau co-hosted a meeting on PFAS. Claudia spoke to highlight that control at source is the only way to keep PFAS out of the environment, thereby protecting people and the planet.

Strategy

Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

In its conclusions on the Commission's new Chemicals Strategy, the Council joins the European Parliament in calling for the phase-out of PFAS uses unless their use is 'proven' to be essential. Given the persistence and mobility of many PFAS, we call for a complete ban of all uses of PFAS.

We also support key goals of the strategy linking the 'one substance, one assessment' approach, 'sustainability by design', a zero-tolerance approach for non-compliance and extending the 'generic approach' to risk management that would automatically ban substances of concern in consumer products.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES



WHAT WE WANT

People must have access to adequate treatment when they get sick. We want that medications are formulated so that their environmental impact is lessened as far as possible. The environmental risk assessment (ERA) must be strengthened, particularly for medications that have been in existence a long time. The ERA results must be considered in the risk benefit analysis under the authorisation process. We also ask that water operators have access to the ERA data so that they can appropriately treat for them.

Pharmaceutical Legislation Revision

The legal framework for human medicines sets standards to ensure a high level of public health protection and the quality, safety and efficacy of medicines. It promotes the functioning of the internal market.

A medicinal product requires a marketing authorisation by the competent authorities before being placed on the market.

What we did

We answered the public consultation on the general pharmaceutical legislation.

We also input to the targeted stakeholder consultation. We sent [suggestions](#) to the ENVI Committee MEPs on the INI report on the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe. We worked with stakeholders across the board to further develop this file and make the legislation as robust as possible.

Meetings and communications

We met with the Commission on the issue of Pharmaceuticals in the Environment.

Carla Chiaretti (EurEau) spoke at the Green Week event 'Clean and circular water: an opportunity to foster healthier cities and regions' organised by Eurocities and CEMR about the importance of source-control regarding Pharmaceuticals in the Environment.

Oliver loebel (EurEau) was at Stockholm Water Week to address 'Balancing Planet and Health Roundtable'. We continue to work with our colleagues from the pharmaceutical sector to find common ground regarding pharmaceuticals in the environment.

Strategy

Pharmaceuticals Strategy

The Pharmaceutical Strategy aims to improve and accelerate patients' access to safe and affordable medicines and to support innovation in the EU pharmaceutical industry. The Strategy highlights the environmental risks stemming from pharmaceutical residues in the environment, building on the European Commission strategic approach from March 2019.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

Position paper on Environmental Quality Standards for Pharmaceuticals

WHAT WE WANT

Mercury UV lamps are an effective tool to disinfect water, used in water treatment plants. At present, there are no efficient alternatives. We want that drinking water and waste water utilities can keep using these lamps until viable alternatives are commercially and affordably available on the market.

Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive

The Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directive regulates the use of specific hazardous materials found in electrical and electronic products (known as EEE). All applicable products in the EU market must pass RoHS compliance.

What we did

We reacted to the draft delegated RoHS Directive to support extending the exemptions for mercury UV lamps for five years and explicitly including the application of disinfection and treatment for drinking water and waste water. We sent a letter to the Commission highlighting our concerns over the vague exemptions concerning mercury in UV lamps.

Meetings and communications

We were in contact with the European Commission's consultants and we input background development work on this Directive.

We also work with the lamp manufacturers on this important issue.





WHAT WE WANT

The ZPAP should go beyond a monitoring exercise and should take actions to reduce pollution at the source.

Zero Pollution Action Plan

The Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) intends to achieve zero pollution from “all sources”, cleaning the air, water and soil by 2050.

What we did

We responded to the public consultation on the ZPAP, one of the flagship initiatives of the EU Green Deal.

The EurEau General Assembly endorsed our [recommendations](#) and our [reaction](#) to the ZPAP.

We were pleased to be selected among the members of the EU Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform launched by the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. The Platform will effectively mainstream the zero pollution agenda, bringing together stakeholders and experts of different policy areas.

Meetings and communications

We participated actively in the European Commission’s Green Week, which this year focused on the ZPAP.

Greet de Guedre, chairperson of our Joint Working Group on Pollutants, gave the keynote address at EU Urban Water Management and Governance – challenges of implementation session hosted by the city of Gothenburg.

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, presented at ‘Farewell PFAS: Can we remove PFAS from our drinking water and what are the challenges?’

EurEau President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, spoke at the German Environment Agency on Including Biocides in the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive.

Claudia was interviewed about pollutants and the EU's ZPAP for the [Energie](#) review (in German).

Rafael Heredero, EurEau Policy Officer, spoke at Finnova about the Green Deal.

You can listen to Denis Bonvillian (FP2E, France), co-chairperson of our committee on economics and legal affairs, talk about why the Green Deal Matters for the water sector in our podcast, [Water Matters](#).

Claudia participated in the Gelsenwasser podcast [GLASKLAR](#) about the importance of the Green Deal for water supply.

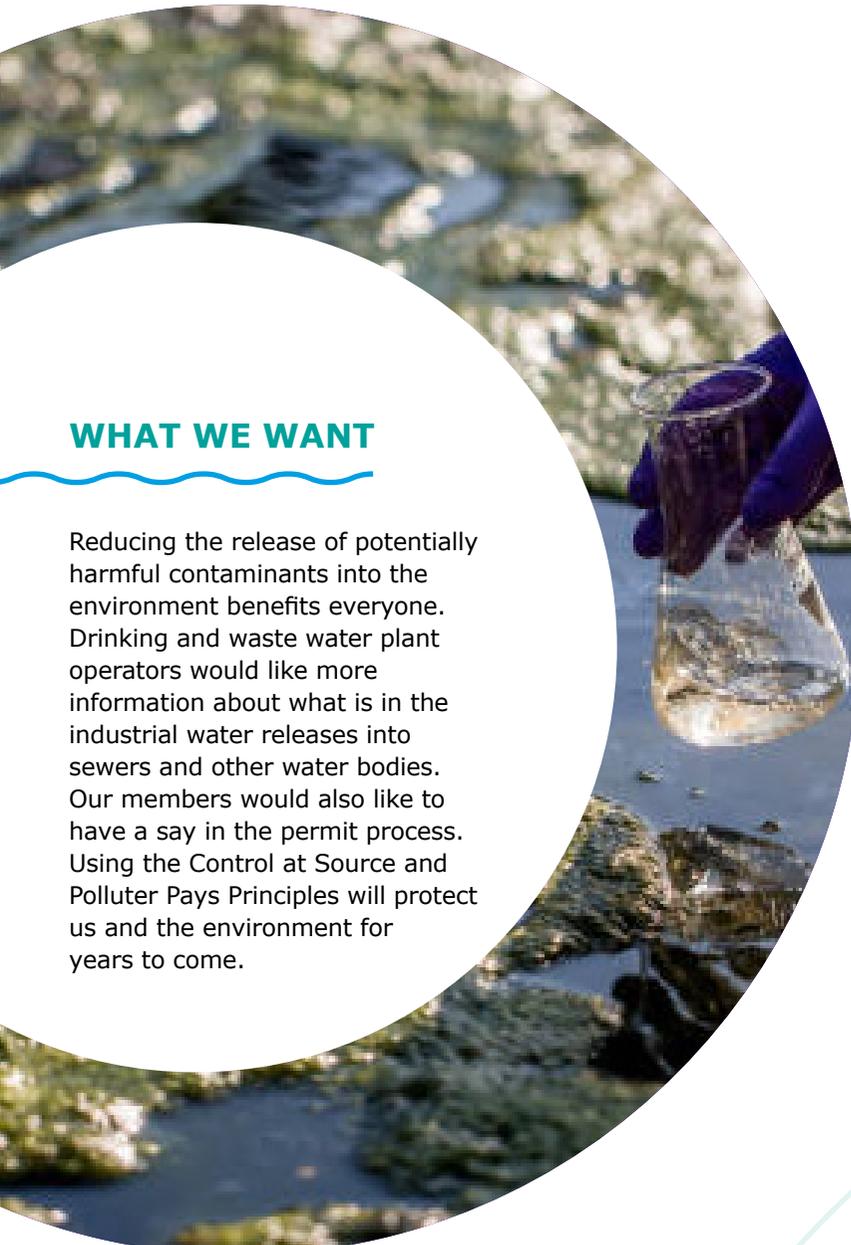
“

ZPAP intends to achieve zero pollution from “all sources”, cleaning the air, water and soil by 2050”

**Recommendations
on the Zero
Pollution
Action Plan**

**POSITION PAPERS
AND BRIEFING NOTES**





WHAT WE WANT

Reducing the release of potentially harmful contaminants into the environment benefits everyone. Drinking and waste water plant operators would like more information about what is in the industrial water releases into sewers and other water bodies. Our members would also like to have a say in the permit process. Using the Control at Source and Polluter Pays Principles will protect us and the environment for years to come.

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

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

What we did

We answered the public consultation on the IED and the E-PRTR (the European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register is the Europe-wide register that provides easily accessible key environmental data).

Meetings and communications

Bertrand Vallet, EurEau Senior Policy Officer, participated in a workshop for the revision of the IED on the Environment management systems (EMS), stressing the importance for water service operators to have access to data so they can anticipate the effect on of various substances on water resources, water treatment processes and sludge quality.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

Best Available
Technique
Reference
Documents
(BREFs)

Industrial
discharge into
sewers

The holistic
approach to
addressing
micropollutants
- 2019 update
of source
control

Water & agriculture

WHAT WE WANT

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

Common Agricultural Policy and the Farm to Fork Strategy

The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the agricultural policy of the European Union. It implements a system of agricultural subsidies and other programmes.

It aims to support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food and help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources.

What we did

The European Parliament adopted an ambitious [own-initiative report](#) on the [Commission's Farm to Fork Strategy](#) to which we had provided input. Read our reaction to the EP vote [here](#).

Meetings and communications

Bertrand Vallet, EurEau Senior Policy Officer, was on a panel discussion at the stakeholder engagement webinar of the FAIRWAY Project to present the projects where drinking water operators and farmers are cooperating for the protection of drinking water resources.

Strategy

Farm to Fork

This Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal, aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

The Revision of the Common Agricultural Policy

Water and Agriculture

Cooperation projects between farmers and the water sector

WHAT WE WANT

We want a Directive that delivers on the ground to reduce the use of pesticides, protect drinking water protection zones, and widen the use of integrated pest management. If measures at the level of drinking water production become necessary, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) should apply.

Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUD) Directive

It is vital that we all have enough food and at a fair price. The same is true for water. Using pesticides in a sustainable way is therefore vital, as these can enter the water system through soil. EU rules on the sustainable use of pesticides aim to protect human health and the environment from the possible risks and impacts of pesticides.

What we did

We responded to the public consultation and targeted stakeholder's surveys on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive.

We met bilaterally with the consultants working with the European Commission on the revision of this important piece of legislation as well as taking part in the stakeholders' meetings they organised.

We supported the ECI [Save Bees and Farmers](#).

Meetings and communications

EurEau President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, spoke on our behalf at two European Commission stakeholder events on the evaluation of the legislation to give our views on the policy options and

stressing why the Polluter Pays Principle should finally become a policy reality.

Anna Pomassl (ÖVGW, Austria) represented EurEau in the second stakeholders workshop on the SUD.

Strategy

Farm to Fork Strategy and the Zero Pollution Action Plan

The Farm to Fork Strategy is at the heart of the European Green Deal, aiming to make food systems fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly ([page 28](#)). The Zero Pollution Action Plan (ZPAP) intends to achieve no pollution from "all sources", cleaning the air, water and soil by 2050 ([page 25](#)).

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

“ Using pesticides in a sustainable way is therefore vital, as these can enter the water system through soil. ”

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

Sustainable Use of Pesticides: Recommendations on the review of Directive

The Drinking Water Directive Explanatory memorandum

The DWD final agreement (internal)



Water as an essential service

WHAT WE WANT

Water operators recognise the need to strengthen cyber security as a prerequisite to benefiting from the digitalisation of services. Our members are also committed to increasing our resilience to natural or man-made disasters. In both cases, European rules should be proportionate to the risks, take account of the size of operators and recognise equivalent national requirements.

Directive on Measures for a High Common Level of Cybersecurity Across the Union (NIS2) and the Critical Entities Resilience Directive (CERD)

With the Directive on Measures for a High Common Level of Cybersecurity Across the Union (NIS2) Directive, the EU will set a range of network and information security requirements which apply to operators of essential services, such as water operators, and digital service providers.

The Critical Entities Resilience Directive (CERD) will set requirements for critical entities, including water operators to increase the resilience of the physical assets against man-made and natural disasters.

What we did

We worked closely with the European Parliament throughout the discussions on the NIS2. The trialogue will begin in early 2022. EurEau participates in the Community for European Research and Innovation for Security (CERIS) aiming to facilitate interactions within the security research community and users of research outputs.

Meetings and communications

We organised meetings with the European Commission regarding the potential impact of these initiatives.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

Security of Information Systems (NIS)

Innovation, investments & taxonomy

WHAT WE WANT

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



Innovation

Innovation is key to guaranteeing the affordability of safe, sustainable and resilient water services for decades to come.

Water service providers are well aware of the challenges and have identified a number of technological and non-technological areas requiring particular innovation efforts with a view to meeting the goals of the European Green Deal.

What we did

We are involved in several projects as a partner. See page 41 and 48 for more details.

We are engaged in the Water4All partnership as observing partners. We contributed to the partnerships preparation of the application for the first Grant Agreement focusing on the innovation needs of water utilities and the need for a better knowledge transfer. We provided detailed comments on the strategy of the Mission 'Restore our Ocean

and Waters'.

Meetings and communications

EurEau President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, gave the keynote address at Blue Planet Berlin Water Dialogues. You can find Claudia's speech and presentation on innovation [here](#).

Claudia also spoke at the WAREG online event to speak about Removing Regulatory Barriers for Water Innovation.

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, moderated the NEREUS Webinar: How Copernicus helps Europe's regions to increase resilience to climate change.

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES

The Precautionary and Innovation Principles

Innovation needs of the water sector



WHAT WE WANT

It is fundamental that the screening criteria are appropriate and proportionate since they will play an important role for Members States and water operators to have access to sustainable financing, EU funding in particular.

Taxonomy Regulation

Sustainable investments are key to delivering the ambition of the EU Green Deal and the Taxonomy Regulation aims to identify sustainable activities by setting technical screening criteria.

The idea is to stop greenwashing, also promoting the development of sustainable financial instruments and helping companies - and therefore the economy - to become more environmentally friendly and to make investments where they are most needed to achieve the goals of the Green Deal.

What we did

We established a Task Force to work on taxonomy, chaired by Søren Povlsen (DANVA, Denmark). We sent our [statement](#) on the Taxonomy Delegated Regulation on climate TSC to the Commission's Task Force on Taxonomy and we shared our [comments](#) on the study of the Sustainable Finance Platform on the Taxonomy Four TSC.

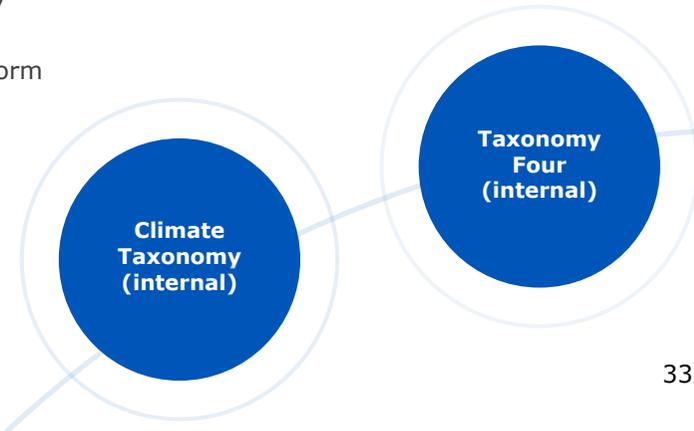
We also considered the Social Taxonomy report.

Meetings and communications

Listen back to why Taxonomy Matters in our podcast 'Water Matters', with Luigi del Giacco, (Utilitalia, Italy), EurEau Executive Committee member.

We interviewed Xavier Leflaivre from the OECD on why finance in general matters to the water sector. You can listen to the interview [here](#).

POSITION PAPERS AND BRIEFING NOTES



Other work

Sustainable products initiative

The European Commission intends to revise the Eco-Design Directive as part of its sustainable products initiative. The goal is to make products more durable, reusable, repairable, recyclable, and energy-efficient. The initiative will also address the presence of harmful chemicals in products such as electronics & ICT equipment and textiles.

In our reaction to the public consultation, we call for eco-design measures to limit the release of micropollutants and microplastics into the environment, and the application of the Polluter Pays Principle.

We responded to the Commission roadmap to define and label bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics.

Francesca Pizza, Chairperson of our JWG on Water Reuse was the keynote speaker at the webinar held by the World Federation of Engineering Organizations - on Water Reuse for a Sustainable Industry.

Clean Oceans

We submitted a contribution to the [public consultation](#) on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Biodiversity and soil health

The EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy sets out how the EU can achieve the climate change mitigation needed by 2030. It will propose legally binding nature restoration targets, subject to an impact assessment.

Linked to the Biodiversity Strategy is the Soil Strategy, which addresses soil degradation and preserves land resources. We support this initiative and want sewage sludge to be recognised as a soil improver.

We responded to the public consultation and to the roadmap. We welcomed the European Parliament resolution to increase the protection of Europe's soils. Carla [wrote](#) about the strategy in her blog.

Concessions Directive

We attended the Stakeholder meeting on the Concessions Directive held by the European Commission to discuss the functioning of the Directive and the impact of the water sector exclusion.

Spatial data sharing

The Infrastructure for Spatial Information (INSPIRE) Directive lays down a general framework for a spatial data infrastructure (SDI). Water services are essential infrastructure and water operators' work with highly sensitive information to keep us all safe and healthy. Excluding some elements of the infrastructure and data from public access will help ensure we stay protected. We reacted to the public consultation and met with the Commission to ensure this exclusion is maintained.

Other meetings

EurEau President, Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, spoke at the European Forum on the Regulation of Water Services on 'Removing regulatory barriers for water innovation'.

Claudia also spoke at the Economy of a Water City hybrid event, intervening on the challenges facing our cities today, highlighting that raising the value of our water services offers an opportunity to meet increasing demands and climate change.

Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General, presented at the UNECE on Equitable Access to Water and Sanitation.

He also spoke at the Balkans Conference (online) on the value of water services.

Oliver spoke at ÖWAV Abwassertagung on the Goals of the European Water Sector for the revision of the waste water legislation.

Claudia and Oliver met with their counterparts from the European Water Association, Raymond Erpelding and Johannes Lohaus to discuss areas of potential cooperation.

Carla Chiaretti, Head of Policy at EurEau spoke at the Water Ireland Conference, highlighting the key challenges for our sector.

Carla spoke at the GWI Network event 'Europe: Meeting the Regulation Challenge' presenting the work carried out by EurEau within the revision of the DWD.

Bertrand Vallet, EurEau's Senior Policy Officer, presented the European policy priorities for the water sector at the SOVAK annual conference.

Caroline Greene, EurEau's Senior Communications Manager, presented how we communicate our water research and data at the European House – Ambrosetti.

EurEau Strategy

We took the opportunity this year to update the EurEau strategy until 2030. We polled members through a questionnaire and met with them to assess how we function and our preparedness to face future challenges.

As a result of this work, we have a new strategy covering our advocacy work and

knowledge sharing and have updated the [challenges](#) that will impact the water sector over the next ten years.

Valuing our water services

Our water service providers deliver day and night, keeping us all safe and healthy.

All too often these privileges are taken for granted. Understanding the value of our water services is investing in our future and the future of the next generations. Water gives us life. Awareness of the value of water services will help that they are effective, efficient, resilient, sustainable and affordable for all.

We issued a [statement](#) on the occasion of the COP26 meeting in Glasgow to highlight the vital role of water in our economy and our society. Politicians and our societies as a whole must develop a better understanding

of the value of water services so that water operators can assume their responsibility to ensure sufficient safe drinking water and properly treated waste water for future generations.

Read our [paper](#) on Valuing our Water Services.

To keep our water services in the thoughts of policy makers, we finished the year with a campaign to highlight why we should pay attention to this vital element. You can follow the campaign on social media using [#valuingourwaterservices](#) and [#OurWaterServicesNeedYou](#).

Europe's Water in Figures

Water operators are working 24 hours a day, and seven days a week, to deliver sustainable water services.

After an extensive member survey, we released the second edition of our statistical report.

We believe that our survey is the most representative currently available. It includes national technical, economic and managerial data ranging from population connection rates to drinking water production to waste water treatment levels to prices and governance. In addition to previous editions, we expanded our section on energy (production, recovery and greenhouse

gas emissions). The results testify to the diversity of the sector. They also show some of the immediate challenges our sector is facing, particularly regarding investment needs.

We trust you will find the information contained in this report useful. You can read the report [here](#). The infographics are also [available](#).

Meeting our members

EurEau Secretary General Oliver Loebel spoke at the DVGW technical meetings in January and June.

Caroline Greene, Senior Communications Manager, met our communications counterparts from the CCMA in Ireland to discuss how we can work together. The annual meeting of our members' communications managers also took place.

Dr Claudia Castell-Exner, EurEau President, presented at OVGW, one of our Austrian members, on the event of their Drink Water Forum.

Oliver participated in the Svenskt Vatten (Sweden) strategy meeting. Oliver was also a speaker at the ÖWAV Austrian Waste Water Congress.

EurEau elections 2021

EurEau re-elected Dr Claudia Castell-Exner as president for the next two years at the May General Assembly meeting.

The full Executive Committee is composed of Alain Gillis (Treasurer) (Belgaqua, Belgium), Luigi del Giacco (Utilitalia, Italy), Klara Ramm, (IGWP, Poland), Mircea-Valentin Macri (ARA, Romania), Iztok Rozman (CCIS-CPU, Slovenia), Mariano Blanco Orozco (AEAS, Spain) Pär Dalhielm (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden) and Stuart Colville (Water UK, United Kingdom).

A big thank you to the outgoing team!

We also elected Committee co-Chairs for each of our three committees:

- EurEau Drinking Water Committee (EU1): co-Chairs Riina Liikanen, Finland (FIWA) and Miquel Paraira, Spain (AEAS)

- EurEau Waste Water Committee (EU2): co-Chairs Michaël Bentvelsen, the Netherlands (Unie van Waterschappen) and Sarah Gillman, United Kingdom (Water UK)
- EurEau Economics and Legal Affairs Committee (EU3): co-Chairs Denis Bonvillain, France (FP2E) and Gari Villa Landa Sokolova, Spain (AEAS).

All parties took up their new positions on 01 July 2021.

Our press release is [here](#).

Water & the SARS-CoV-2 virus

Water service providers across Europe continued in the fight against the spread of Covid-19, providing us all with safe and clean drinking water while ensuring effective waste water services.

We are involved in the European Commission/ JRC sampling campaign to assess the feasibility for an EU-wide Wastewater Monitoring System for SARS-CoV-2 Surveillance. The Commission published a [recommendation](#) on monitoring SARS-CoV-2 and its variants in waste water in the EU, strongly encouraging Member States to

put in place a national waste water surveillance system targeted at data collection of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants in waste water by 1 October 2021. EurEau members participated in the pilot project run by the JRC that led to this recommendation. You can read more [here](#).

Bertrand Vallet (EurEau) and Angel Villanueva (AEAS, Spain) participated in the town hall meetings to extend the sharing of knowledge further. It is to be seen whether and how the European Commission will take into account this experience in the revision of the UWWTD.



We published many position papers and briefing notes in 2021 that we will use to advance consumer and environmental protection.

EurEau meetings

We held nine EurEau Committee meetings.

18-19 February
Drinking Water
(EU1)

10-11 May
Economics &
Legal Affairs
(EU3)

20-21 May
Waste water
(EU2)

13-14 September
Economics &
Legal Affairs
(EU3)

21-22 September
Drinking water
(EU1)

13-14 September
Waste water
(EU2)

28-29 January
Economics &
Legal Affairs
(EU3)

3-4 June
Drinking water
(EU1)

21-22 January
Waste water
(EU2)

Our Joint Working Groups

Innovation, Micropollutants, Reuse, Value of Water Services, and the Water Framework Directive – were also active this year, meeting several times to advance on their themes. We set up two Task Forces, one to look at PFAS, chaired by Jos van den Akker (Unie van Waterschappen and Vewin, the Netherlands) and one on Taxonomy, chaired by Søren Povlsen (DANVA, Denmark).

EurEau's Executive Committee met five times over the year, all of these were on line. Our General Assembly met twice, also virtually.

Thank you to all those who volunteered to host meetings for us over these years, and under these unknown, changing and challenging circumstances.

Water Lobby Group

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

European Parliament Intergroup

The working group 'Water Management' of the Intergroup on Biodiversity, Climate Change and Sustainable Development' continues to meet.

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

We co-organised three meetings this year, on microplastics and EPR, climate change and on PFAS.

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 2021.

Research Projects

TRUST

Co-UDlabs

ZeroPM

JRC
(SARS Cov-2 monitoring in waste water)

EurEau Representative

Jan Peter van der Hoek (Vewin, the Netherlands)

Jo Severyns (Belgaqua, Belgium)

Pierre Pieronne (FP2E, France)

Angel Villanueva Blasco (AEAS, Spain) Communication: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)

Media & outreach

Our annual report for 2020 was published in June, highlighting some of our work from the Drinking Water Directive to how our waste water is treated to how our environment is shaped by water. You can read our review [here](#).

We published season 2 of our podcast 'Water Matters' with episodes on the [Green Deal](#) with Denis Bonvillain, co-chairperson of our committee on economics and legal affairs; [taxonomy](#) with Luigi del Giacco from our Executive Committee, [valuing our water services, featuring Klara Ramm, chairperson of our JWG on the Value of Water Services, water](#)

[financing](#) with Xavier Leflaivre of the OECD, the [governance of water services](#), interviewing Carla Chiaretti from the EurEau secretariat and finally, [climate change](#) with Gilbert Nordenswan from Svenskt Vatten.

You can listen on your favourite podcast app or by clicking on the above links. Just look for 'Water Matters'.

Bertrand Vallet was interviewed by Innovation News Network about the Europe's Water in Figures report to discuss the key findings of the report. You can find the interview [here](#).

Looking forward to 2022

When we entered the year 2021, most of us were confident the Covid-19 pandemic would be under control by late summer.

Reality taught us otherwise. Infection numbers jumped to previously unseen levels towards the end of that year, extending also supply chain issues. Despite this somewhat unexpected development, drinking water and waste water operators reliably delivered their services to 475 million water users all over the continent. Expecting the unexpected, one could say. And indeed, numerous operators have increased their resilience since the beginning of the pandemic.

The word 'resilience' will continue to accompany us in 2022. The European Parliament and the Council are expected to finalise the High Common Level of Cybersecurity Directive (NIS2) and the Resilience of Critical Entities Directive both of which include drinking water and waste water operators in their scope. We urge the co-legislators to base the selection of critical entities on a risk analysis and avoid over-burdening small operators.



This year should also see the approval of two directives linked to the Fit-For-55 package, covering energy efficiency and renewable energy. And again, resilience is not far away, as reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels increases our resilience to energy price shocks such as the one we witnessed in 2021.

Apart from the approval of legal acts, this year will bring us a plethora of new proposals. Top of the list is obviously the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Our members are committed to living up to the challenges of the decades to come, be it in terms of climate change mitigation, circular economy or additional treatment requirements. We count on the European institutions to ensure the affordability of our services by fully implementing the control-at-source principle and the Polluter Pays Principle as enshrined in the EU Treaties.

“

Reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels increases our resilience to energy price shocks

”

More EU proposals to protect our water resources are expected over the next twelve months. For example, parts of the Groundwater Directive and the Water Framework Directive (Environmental Quality Standards Directive) will be revised to update the quality standards for surface water and groundwater. More upstream, the proposal for an updated Industrial Emissions Directive will, hopefully, set stricter limits for the release of hazardous substances into surface water.

The revision of parts of the EU's chemicals legislation will have direct repercussions on the water sector, in particular by including the PMT/vPvM classification in the Classification, Labelling and Packaging (CLP) Regulation. The REACH proposal should extend the use of the generic risk assessment and define the essential use concept.

Many of the above-mentioned initiatives are directly linked to PFAS, the 'forever chemicals' that we find everywhere today, in food, in the air and in the urban water cycle. We will continue our efforts to work towards a ban of PFAS uses in order to prevent their further accumulation in the environment. With this in mind, we will continue to support the Five-Member-State initiative for a comprehensive PFAS restriction.

Two more legislative proposals affecting our water bodies are expected this year. The Sustainable Use of Pesticides (SUD)

Directive should be brought up to speed with the ambitions of the Farm-to-Fork Strategy. This will require substantial improvements compared to the current text. Furthermore, the Commission is likely to propose updated rules for pharmaceuticals. The EU Executive will have to prove their willingness to tackle the release of pharmaceuticals in the environment at the source.

And last but not least, we expect the new Commission proposals on Taxonomy, which will affect the financing conditions for water operators in all Member States and beyond.

As you will have realised, the 2022 work programme is again a busy one. If the announced initiatives live up to the Green Deal ambitions, we can expect further steps towards protecting public health and our aquatic environment. We will therefore accompany them with our expertise and knowledge, but also with our enthusiasm. We are proud to be able to count on our equally enthusiastic and dedicated members and we sincerely hope we can meet again personally over the next months.

Because water matters.



OLIVER LOEBEL
EurEau Secretary General

The team



Carla Chiaretti
Head of Policy



Oliver Loebel
Secretary General



Louise Hoogenhout
Office Manager



Caroline Greene
Senior Communications
Manager



Bertrand Vallet
Senior Policy Officer –
Water Services



Rafael Heredero
Policy Officer

Participation in European Commission Expert & Advisory Groups

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

These fora can be attended exclusively by European umbrella federations, such as EurEau¹.

European Commission

Zero Pollution Stakeholder Platform

FP: Dr Claudia Castell Exner (DVGW, DE)
CC: Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, SE)

European Commission

DWD expert group

FP: Eric Chauveheid (Belgaqua, BE)
CC: Dominique Gatel (FP2E, FR)

European Commission

UWWTD expert group

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

European Commission

BWD expert group

FP: Ronan Kane (Irish Water, IRL)
CC: Rafael Heredero (EurEau)
CC: Benoit Hecq (Belgaqua, BE)

European Commission

Fertiliser Regulation expert group

FP: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)
CC: Arne Haarr (Norsk Vann, NO)

European Commission

ERNICIP

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

European Benchmarking

Co-operation (Board)

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

¹ Situation as of 21.02.22

European Commission WFD CIS

SCG

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

WG ECOSTAT

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

WG CHEMICALS

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

WG CHEMICALS

SG on effect-based tools

FP: Magali Dechesne (FP2E, FR)

WG FLOODS

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

WG Data Information and Sharing

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

WG GROUNDWATER

FP: Claus Vansgaard (DANVA, DK)
CC: Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)
CC: Bertrand Vallet (EurEau)
CC: Rob Eijsink (Vewin, NL)
CC: Alena Trancikova (Asociácia Vodárenských Spoločností, SK)
CC: Wennemar Cramer (Vewin, NL)

WG ECONOMICS

Klara Ramm (IGWP, PL)
Ignacio Lozano (AEAS, ES)

WG WATER REUSE

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

ATG Water Scarcity and Drought

Dominique Gatel (FP2E, FR)
Gari Villa-Landa (AEAS, ES)

ECHA

Committee for Risk Assessment

Dr. Marco Scheurer (DVGW, DE)

Committee for Socio-Economic Analysis

Andreas Hein (DVGW, DE)
(Oliver Loebel, EurEau)

Biocidal Products Committee

Eduardo Arozamena Ramos (AEAS, ES)

Other bodies
EurEau
participates in

Water JPI

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

OECD Governance Initiative

Lucia Pitzurra (Utilitalia, IT)

OECD Roundtable on financing water

Mariano Blanco (AEAS, ES)

ChemSec Business Group

Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, SE)

HELCOM

Paula Lindell (FIWA, FIN)

**All Policies for a Healthy
Europe Initiative**

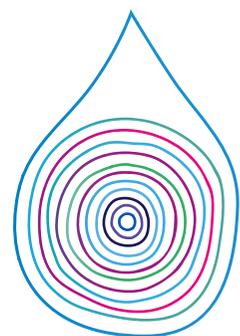
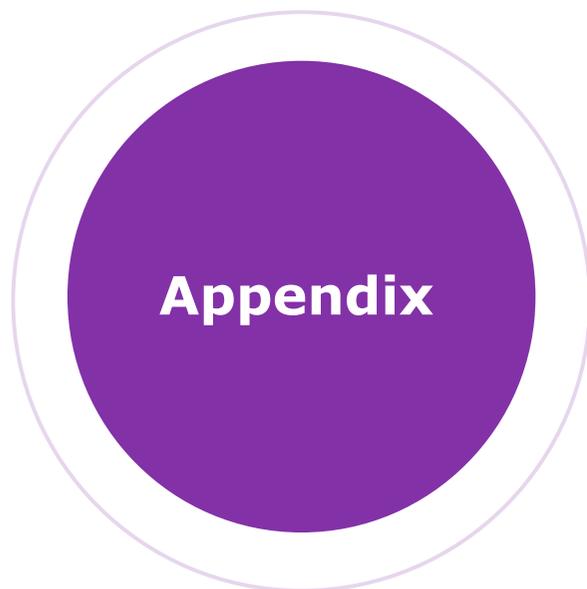
Carla Chiaretti (EurEau)

Sanitation and Water for All

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

Tyre and Road Wear Particles Platform

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



EurEau

EurEau Executive Committee 2022

EurEau Governance 2022

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Vice President

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Executive Committee

Alain Gillis, Belgaqua (Belgium)
(EurEau Treasurer)

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Luigi del Giacco, Utilitalia (Italy)

Mircea-Valentin Macri, Asociatia Romana a Apei (Romania)

Mariano Blanco Orozco, AEAS (Spain)

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

Stuart Colville, Water UK (United Kingdom)

EurEau Committee Chairpeople

Co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Drinking Water (EU1)

Riina Liikanen; FIWA (Finland)

Miquel Paraira Faus ; AEAS (Spain)

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

Michaël Bentvelsen; Unie van Waterschappen (The Netherlands)

Sarah Gilman; Water UK (United Kingdom)

Co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3)

Denis Bonvillain; FP2E (France)

Gari Villa-Landa Sokolova; AEAS (Spain)

EurEau member associations and General Assembly Representatives 2021



AUSTRIA

Raimund Paschinger
 ÖVGW – Österreichische Vereinigung für das Gas- und Wasserfach | Austrian Association for Gas and Water
www.ovgw.at

ÖWAV – Österreichischer Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband | Austrian Water and Waste Management Association
www.oewav.at



BELGIUM

Alain Gillis
 Belgaqua – Belgische Federatie voor de Watersector | Fédération Belge du Secteur de l'Eau | Belgian Federation for the Water Sector
www.belgaqua.be



BULGARIA

Vassil Trenev
 Съюз на ВиК операторите в Република България | Union of Waste Water Operators in the Republic of Bulgaria
www.srvikbg.com



CROATIA

Andrej Marochini
 HGVIK – Hrvatska grupacija vodovoda i kanalizacije | Croatian Water and Waste Water Association
www.hgvik.hr



CYPRUS

Sophocles Christodoulides
 Σύνδεσμος Συμβουλίων Ύδρευσης-Αποχέτευσης Κύπρου | Cyprus Association of Water and Sewerage Boards
www.ssyak.com.cy



CZECH REPUBLIC

Ondrej Benes
 SOVAK CR – Sdružení oboru vodovodů a kanalizací České republiky | Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic
www.sovak.cz



DENMARK

Carl-Emil Larsen
 DANVA - Dansk Vand og Spildevandsforening | Danish Water and Waste Water Association
www.danva.dk



ESTONIA

Pille Aarma
 EVEL - Eesti Vee-ettevõtete Liit
 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

Gunda Röstel
 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
 ΕΝΩΣΗ ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΩΝ ΥΔΡΕΥΣΗΣ
 ΑΠΟΧΕΤΕΥΣΗΣ - Ε.Δ.Ε.Υ.Α.
 EDEYA - Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises
 for Water Supply and Sewage
www.edeya.gr



HUNGARY

Edit Nagy
 MaVíz - Magyar Víziközmű Szövetség
 Hungarian Water Utility Association
www.maviz.org



IRELAND

Tom Leahy
 Irish Water
www.water.ie

CCMA - The County and City
 Management Association



ITALY

Luigi Joseph Del Giacco
 Utilitalia - Associazione delle imprese idriche
 energetiche e ambientali | Federation of Energy,
 Water and Environmental Services
www.utilitalia.it



ALUSEAU
 association luxembourgeoise
 des services d'eau

LUXEMBOURG

Georges Kraus
 ALUSEAU - Association Luxembourgeoise des
 Services d'Eau | Luxembourg Association of
 Water Services
www.aluseau.lu



MALTA

Ivan Falzon
 Water Services Corporation
www.wsc.com.mt



NORWAY

Arne Haarr
 Norsk Vann | Norwegian Water
www.norskvann.no



POLAND

Klara Ramm
 IGWP - Izba Gospodarcza Wodociągi Polskie
 Polish Waterworks Chamber of Commerce
www.igwp.org.pl



PORTUGAL

Rui Marreiros
 APDA - Associação Portuguesa de
 Distribuição e Drenagem de Águas
 Portuguese Association of Water
 and Wastewater Services
www.apda.pt



ROMANIA

Mircea-Valentin Macri
 ARA - Asociația Română a Apei
 Romanian Water Association
www.ara.ro



SERBIA (associate member)

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
 Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia
 - Chamber of Public Utilities
www.gzs.si/zkg



SPAIN

Mariano Blanco Orozco
 AEAS - Asociación Española de Abastecimientos
 de Agua y Saneamiento | Spanish Water and
 Waste Water Association
www.aeas.es

Svenskt Vatten

SWEDEN

Pär Dalhielm
 Svenskt Vatten | The Swedish Water and Waste
 Water Association
www.svensktvatten.se



SWITZERLAND

Martin Sager

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

www.svgw.ch

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

Swiss Water Association

www.vsa.ch



THE NETHERLANDS

Luzette Kroon

UvW - Unie van Waterschappen

www.dutchwaterauthorities.com

Vewin - Vereniging van waterbedrijven in Nederland

www.vewin.nl



UKRAINE (associate member)

Ukrvodokanal

www.ukrvodokanal.in.ua

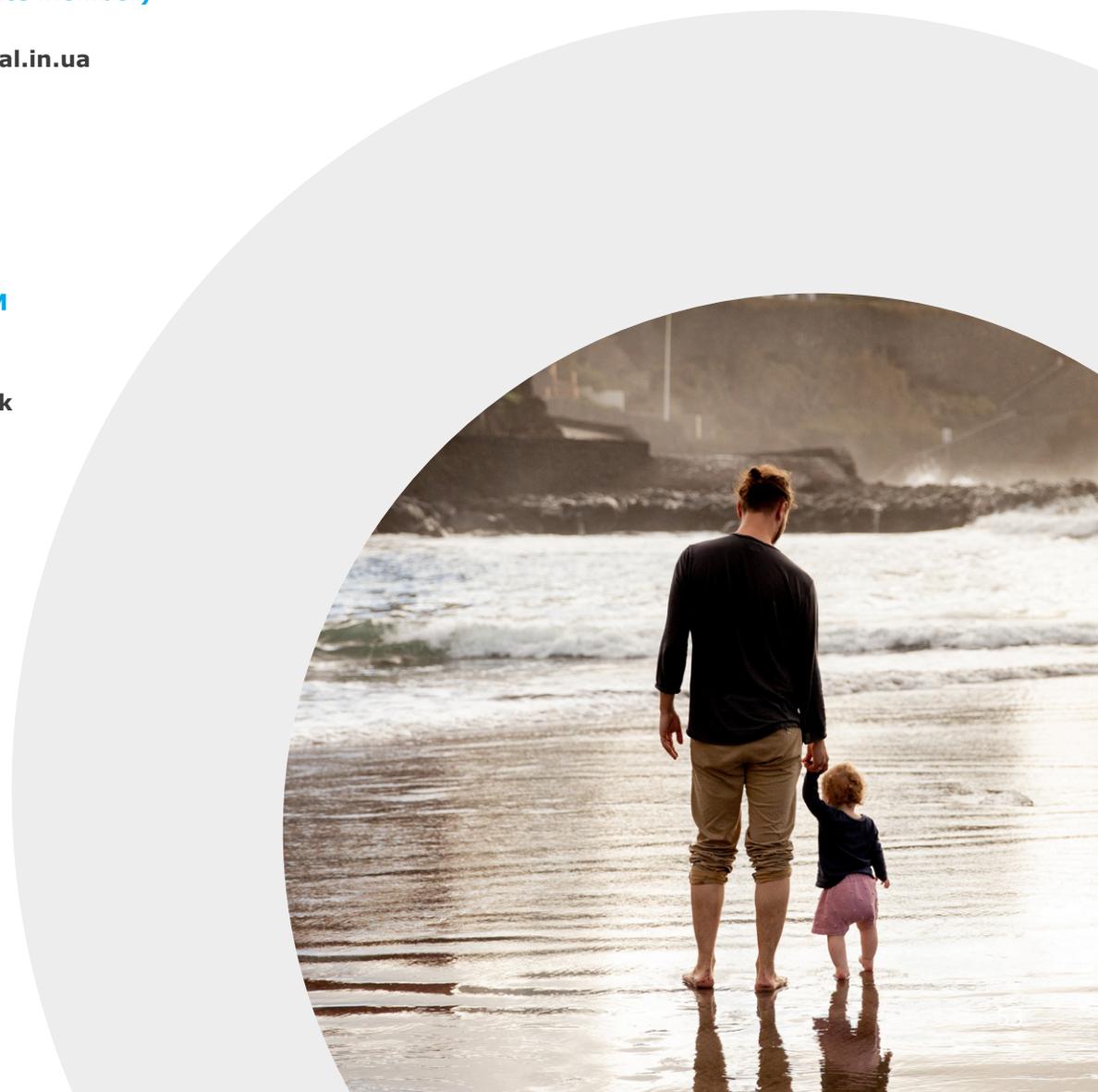


UNITED KINGDOM

Stuart Colville

Water UK

www.water.org.uk

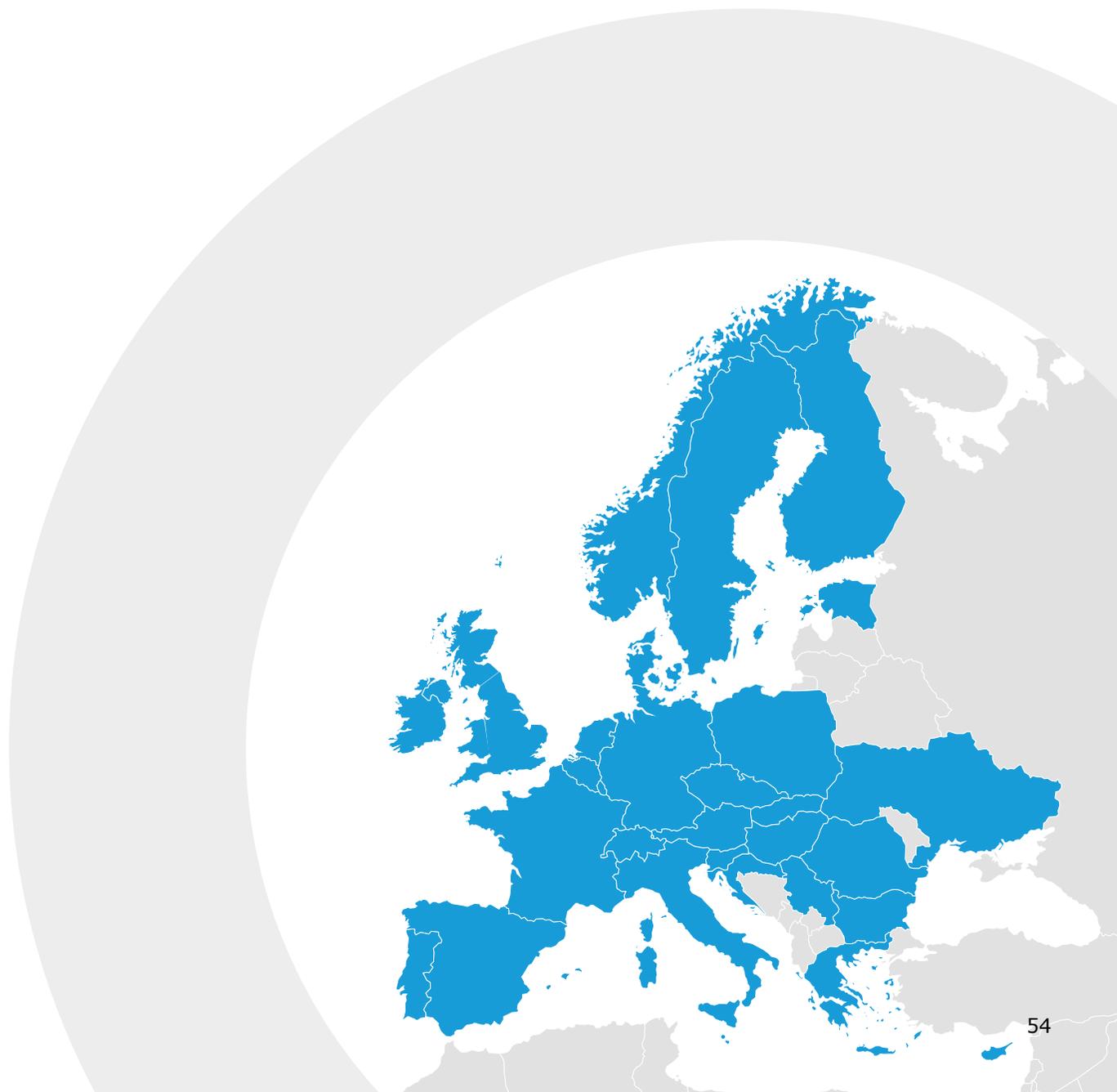


About EurEau

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

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

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





EurEau

EurEau

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