

Commissioner Carlos Moedas for Research, Science and Innovation
European Commission
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Brussels, 30 January 2015

Subject: Main priorities for water under the Juncker Commission 2014-2019

Dear Commissioner Moedas,

On behalf of key members of the EU Water Alliance, we congratulate you on your new post as Commissioner. With over 136.000 SME's directly involved in the value chains of the water-related economy, a strong water services sector is a critical economic and social driver for implementing *a new agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change*.

Further to the key messages of the Juncker's Commission, presented in the Annex to this letter we would like to meet to discuss with you the importance of water within the context of the new EC agenda by sharing our ideas on cross-cutting water themes amongst the priorities for action, thereby ensuring better cooperation.

Referring specifically to **Jobs and Growth**, water by nature, is cross-sectorial and overarching: 90% of global economy is water dependent, including the energy sector. Key industries in Europe such as chemical, pharmaceutical, food, textile, metal, energy, are highly water-dependent. The importance of water is often diluted by the fact that water is prevalent in diverse sectors of society. When one understands the pillar role of water for all other sectors of the economy, one realizes its quintessential position for jobs, growth, and investment in order to strengthen competitiveness of the European economy. A high performing industry, based on demand-driven research and innovative solutions, reinforcing industrial leadership and addressing societal challenges, can make a difference in implementing the EC agenda.

EU economic growth and democratic change is highly linked to our changing climate and global challenges. Our ability to adapt to these challenges is highly dependent on (a) the water resources we have and how we manage them, and (b) the strength, performance and competitiveness of our industry. The latter is more and more subordinated to the availability of critical resources, such as water resources. Climate change challenges are closely linked to water scarcity and extreme events. How to ensure sound and sustainable management of water resources to satisfy growing societal and economic needs while guaranteeing a sufficient quantity and adequate quality in a framework of Industrial Renaissance? Water is a cross-sectorial topic and needs all College portfolios to work hand-in-hand to reinforce European sustainable development.



To mobilize the EU innovative financial instruments available under various financial programmes of the Multiannual Financial Framework of the EU 2014-2020, water plays an extremely important role to ensure clear systemic results (for e.g. via water-energy-food-land resources nexuses), structural and mindset changes at the EU level to boost growth, investment and competitiveness. The overriding importance of the water sector for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and sustainable management of Europe's water resources is essential to ensure a resilient Energy Union and a forward looking Climate Change and Energy policy integrating achievements of the EU digital agenda.

Therefore, we are inviting you to discuss the following priorities for water for 2014-2019 relevant to your portfolio:

- The integration of water as a cross-cutting theme across the different pillars and challenges of the Horizon2020 Work Programmes, ensuring that water remains an independent focus area itself among societal challenges of H2020.
- Strengthening the commercial value of innovations in water within the EU and internationally. The quintessential importance of water by guaranteeing a complete innovation value chain covering all technology readiness levels;
- Maximizing the value added impact of water in H2020 to support and enrich policy-making at the EU and at the national level;
- Maximising synergies for water theme with the implementation of the European Structural and Investment Funds and other EU financial instruments under MFF 2014-2020. Fostering the creation of new innovative financial mechanisms (EIB) for an innovative water sector strengthening a commercial value for innovations in water;
- Supporting European innovation partnerships, technology platforms, programing initiatives (WssTP, EIP water, JPI water, etc.) for large scale systemic changes in EU economy.

We are looking forward to scheduling a meeting to discuss these items at your earliest convenience. The contact point for further communication is Durk Krol, WssTP Managing director, durk.krol@wsstp.eu, tel.+32-473805042. We thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Members of EU Water Alliance: Acqueau, EurAqua, European Water Association (EWA), European Water Partnership (EWP), NetworkH₂O, WssTP.

Enclosure: EU Water Alliance: Main priorities for water under the Juncker Commission (2014-2019)

