

Commissioner Corina Cretu for Regional Policy  
European Commission  
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Brussels, 30 January 2015

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

Dear Commissioner Cretu,

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*. Water also plays a crucial role towards a robust Circular economy package and strengthening the role of regions in research and innovation initiatives for improved resource efficiency.

Further to the key messages of the Juncker's Commission, presented in the Annex to this letter we would like 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.

The role of the Directorate General to which you have recently been appointed is a vital one with regards to the sector in which the organizations which we represent are involved. The variability of water challenges in different regions and urban areas creates the need for tailor-made innovative solutions, smart specialization, and the encouragement of a best-practice exchange between regional and local authorities to facilitate optimal solutions to different issues.

There exists a growing need for local stakeholders in numerous European regions to become actively involved in the process of practical programmes for implementing the Water Framework Directive at regional level. This requires targeted support and expert knowledge of local idiosyncrasies within the context of interregional policy implementation.

The process of innovation and the efficient supervision of regional legislation by your administration will, eliminate barriers that often dissuade investment or the creation of initiatives. Strategic investment focused on an integrated approach to water innovation with an emphasis on water management, services and infrastructures, will encourage the development of Smart Cities and Urban and Peri-Urban areas while creating smart jobs.



No other European Administration has the capacity of the Directorate General for Regional Policy to ensure the correct coordination of the water sector across EU regions involving improved possibilities of investment in water innovation, whilst at the same time advancing standards in water management and infrastructures. Of equal importance are issues such as ICT, Energy and Industrial Policy. Improved synergies between these sectors and water can and must be established with the support of your administration.

Regional and local collaboration together with trans-sectorial cooperation will benefit Europe. The benefits of raising of awareness, and exchanging best practices has been demonstrated by the actions of the EIP WATER Action Groups and is evidence of the role DG Regional Policy will play in creating a more mature European water sector.

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](mailto: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), NetworcH<sub>2</sub>O, WssTP.

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

