

Commissioner Arias Cañete for Climate Action & Energy
European Commission
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Brussels, 30 January 2015

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

Dear Commissioner Cañete,

On behalf of key members of the EU Water Alliance, we congratulate you on your new post as Commissioner. A strong water services sector with over 136.000 SME's directly involved in the value chains of the water-related economy, is a critical economic and social driver for implementing *a new agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change*. Water is an essential component considering long-term strategy for climate adaptation. Furthermore, the need to ensure balanced solutions should be a clear objective in advancing EU's energy package.

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.

There are two major climate related water challenges for Europe which points to the need for a more climate-resilient Europe: increased water stress and related droughts, mainly in South-Eastern Europe, and increasing flood risks across the whole European continent. A climate adaptation strategy with water as a central element will ensure the sufficient quantity and adequate quality of water in order to support economic development.

Climate mitigation and climate adaptation considerations should be integrated within the Smart Cities Strategy in order to streamline fragmented initiatives and increase the economic viability and the environmental sustainability of innovative solutions. Therefore, we kindly request a meeting to discuss:

- How can we integrate water as a central theme within climate change mitigation efforts at EU level and climate adaptation strategies at national level.
- How can we ensure the integration of water into other policies in the context of adaption to climate change.

Energy production and water are interdependent and equally essential to society. Improving the energy efficiency of European water infrastructure requires a regulatory framework to stimulate market deployment. Water has become an increasingly pressing issue in energy production due to climate related pressures. Measures to stimulate improved energy efficiency will help address European wide water objectives.



Therefore, we kindly request a meeting to discuss our priorities and your commitment to:

- The importance and the interdependence of the energy and water sectors and ensuring that energy policy is closely linked to measures to ensure good water quality and availability.
- Ensure investment in research, development and market uptake of (a) technologies to reduce the energy use of the water sector (b) technologies to recover and generate energy from (waste)water and (c) emerging technologies for water-based renewable energies.
- Stimulate renewable energy from water in an environmentally sustainable way and to guarantee the adaptation of a regulatory framework to small-scale energy production.

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), NetworCh₂O, WssTP.

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

