

Commissioner Günther Oettinger for Digital Economy and Society
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels – Belgium
Guenther.Oettinger@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 30 January, 2015

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

Dear Commissioner Oettinger,

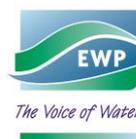
On behalf of key members of the EU Water Alliance, we congratulate you on your new post as Commissioner. A strong water services sector is a critical economic and social driver for implementing *a new agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change*.

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

Water is a critical economic and social driver in Europe. Increasing water demands of our society, economy (including industry, energy and food production) and growing urbanisation, and on the other hand, decreasing availability of water resources in changing climate, may lead to an estimated 40% supply shortage by 2030 and a growing corporate awareness of water risk. Optimisation of sound water resources management, resource efficiency and a prediction of water availability is not possible without ICT-based innovative solutions.

Digital technologies and systems-of-systems in water are contributing to achieve: (a) sustainable real-time long-term solutions for water resources management in smart cities and rural areas, improving resource efficiency and recovery; (b) positive symbiotic trends for the Industrial Renaissance in Europe; (c) a long-term and more precise prediction of water availability under various climatic pressures.

Digital systems and smart technological ICT-based solutions are among critical driving forces in boosting a circular economy, crafting economic value for water recovery, creating new prospects for water-ICT-based smart jobs with new market opportunities and removing barriers innovations for water use. In your new role, we encourage you to seek combined approaches for innovative digital solutions in water management thus to contribute strengthening EU industrial competitiveness.



In respect to research, development and innovation investments in digital solutions for water, strengthening the links of Horizon 2020 with DG CNECT & DG DIGIT programs will ensure the international valorisation of the investments and implementation of new business models for sustainability and resource efficiency as a measure of their long-term benefits.

We would like to discuss with you:

- The importance of water to the new EC agenda for growth, jobs, competitiveness and your commitment to develop and apply digital research and innovation;
- Your support for the implementation of relevant EU legislation via innovative digital solutions so that citizens and business can fully reap the benefits of digital economy;
- The incorporation of cross-cutting water themes among the main priorities of the College actions in order to enforce a better cooperation that guided Europe to become increasingly innovative and competitive.

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)

