

Commissioner Christos Stylianides for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management
European Commission
B-1049 Brussels – Belgium
Christos.Stylianides@ec.europa.eu

Brussels, 30 January, 2015

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

Dear Commissioner Stylianides,

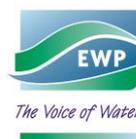
On behalf of members of the EU Water Alliance, we congratulate you on your new post as Commissioner for taking this responsible position. We trust in all your efforts and intentions as a turning point in implementing *a new agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change* and contributing to the EU security policy development and implementation.

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. We would like to discuss the importance of innovative solutions for water management, supply and sanitation to the new EC agenda for growth, jobs, competitiveness and liaise with you on your commitment to maximize the impact of the EU humanitarian assistance in actions linked to water-related extreme events.

Water is one of the natural and/or man-made disasters that does not respect national frontiers. Water is a critical economic and social driver not only in Europe, but world-wide, and is a crucial component for society under critical extreme conditions. With an increasingly frequent extreme events that are closely linked to water pressures, availability and/or abundance and risks, there is a need to guarantee the proper alignment of policies and actions and confront these water-related extremes.

In your new role, we urge you to seek a better alignment of coordinated actions amongst your colleagues of the College and UN partners for sound combined approaches and innovative solutions in water management under disaster management cycle: prevention, preparedness and response.

In respect to research, development and innovation, Europe should have innovative solutions for water linked to disaster preparedness, prediction of extreme events, risk reduction and post-event timely responses. We encourage you to reinforce the links of Horizon 2020 in order to strengthen the capacity of the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) and ensure the international valorisation of the investments and implementation of new models for disaster prediction tools.



Furthermore, it is important that action programmes are streamlined in close collaboration between European and world-wide organisations as UN.

We are looking forward to sharing our ideas on the incorporation of a cross-cutting water theme among the main priorities of the College actions including in particular the international cooperation and development with non-EU countries and 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)

