



## Newsletter February 2020

Here below you can get information and be updated about:

► **News from EWA:**

Selected stories of what has happened since the last issue, including an invitation to participate in the EWA WG Economics

► See a video presentation of a member of EWA

► **News from Brussels:**

Abstracts with links to download the full articles + information about News from Brussels Live

► **List of EWA events**

► List of other events

► Until we meet again ..



## News from EWA

### EWA WG Economics



The EWA invites you to:

► Answer a short survey

► Join the EWA WG Economics as a contact person and, if available, participate in a meeting at the **IFAT Tuesday 5 May 2020 at 14:00**

► Participate in an EWA online dialogue forum with other EWA members to discuss the effect of economics on the water sector

You can read more about the EWA [WG Economics](#) on the website.

If you are interested in joining the EWA WG Economics, need more information or have questions, please send an email to the Chair of the group, [Karoly Kovacs](#).

Deadline:

Please notice, that we appreciate your reply as soon as possible and before the deadline: Sunday 01.03.2020.

► **Survey:**

Please answer the survey electronically by clicking on this link: [FORM](#)

The questions of the survey are attached for information and overview. EWA is interested in getting as many answers and opinions as possible, so feel free to distribute the link below to all relevant members in your country and/or relevant contacts with interest in the economic perspective of water politics. All respondents will get access to the result of the survey.

► **Call for contact persons:**

All contact persons will be invited to join the WG Economics, and all interested persons will be invited to a meeting at the IFAT, 5 May 2020 at 14:00 in Munich, Germany to discuss the results of the survey and how to proceed with the group.

► **EWA Online Dialogue Forum for Members:**

EWA will host an online dialogue forum for members with the title: 'Ageing Water Infrastructure due to Missing Cost Recovery'.

If you are interested in participating and receiving more info about this, please send an email to [Maj Britt Rosenmeyer Olsen](mailto:Britt.Rosenmeyer@EWA.eu)



## Conference in Harbin, China: Water Management in Cold Climates



The conference 'Water Management in Cold Climate 2020' took place 12-14 January 2020 in Harbin, China.

The conference was hosted as a joint conference between the European Water Association (EWA), the International Water Association (IWA) and the Harbin Institute of Technology.

Besides a strong scientific program, also an interesting social program was offered, including a visit to the world famous Harbin Ice Sculpture Festival, where the photo above is taken. The photo shows Harsha Ratnaweera, Co-Chair of the Organising Committee, in the middle, and EWA President, Bjørn Kaare Jensen, to the far left.

Attendees at the conference, and other interested, still have the possibility to purchase the following DWA publications about [Cold Climates](#) and [Reuse](#) in English.

## Presentation of a member of EWA

### EWA Honorary Treasurer: Otto Schaaf (DE)



In this video you have the chance to meet Otto Schaaf from Germany.

Otto Schaaf is elected member of the EWA Management Committee (MC) and serves as the Honorary Treasurer of EWA. Furthermore, Otto Schaaf is the representative of the German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste (DWA) in the EWA Council.

In the video Otto Schaaf introduces himself and explains why he thinks, EWA is an excellent forum to share knowledge and work for clean water, not only in Europe, but worldwide.

► [Video of Otto Schaaf](#)

The video lasts 3:14 min. If the video doesn't start, try inserting this link separately in your browser: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pifzdXkCwmc>

To hear what Otto Schaaf says, please remember to switch the volume on your device on. You find the contact information of Otto Schaaf at the end of the video.

You can find other video presentations on the EWA Youtube Channel [EWA Online](#).

### Political Consultant Dr. Helmut Blöch (BE)

In this video you have the chance to meet Dr. Helmut Blöch, who is the Political Consultant of EWA.

Dr. Helmut Blöch has a past working for the European Commission in Brussels, and is now the political editor of the News from Brussels in every



edition of the EWA Newsletter.

To hear what Helmut Blöch says, please remember to switch the volume on your device on.

You find the contact information of Helmut Blöch at the end of the video.

➔ [Video of Helmut Blöch](#)

The video lasts 1:57 min. If the video doesn't start, try inserting this link separately in your browser:  
<https://youtu.be/eEc5cUS5wig>

## News from Brussels

### News from Brussels Live

#### Meet Dr. Helmut Blöch online

As an extended service to all EWA Members, Dr. Helmut Blöch will render himself available for an online explanation of the topics in the News From Brussels here below.

Next time, where you have the possibility to discuss the topics in the articles of the News from Brussels, will be:

- **A: Friday 6 March 2020 at 10:00**
- **B: Monday 9 March 2020 at 15:00**



If you would like to participate in one of the online meetings with Dr. Helmut Blöch, please send an email to [Maj Britt Rosenmeyer Olsen](#) indicating your name, EWA membership and option A or B.

To give Dr. Blöch the best possible conditions to investigate further and prepare for the online session, please indicate also your specific topic of interest or questions/answers you would like him to elaborate online.

You will receive a link with the invitation to the online meeting in return.

### Water Framework Directive Fitness Check

#### EU Water Legislation - Fitness Check

The fitness check published in December 2019 is a comprehensive policy evaluation of:

- the Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- the Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD)
- the Groundwater Directive (GWD)
- the Floods Directive (FD).

It assesses whether the Directives are fit for purpose by examining their performance against 5 criteria set out in the Commission's Better Regulation agenda: effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added value.

#### Key findings

The analysis of the evidence and the stakeholder feedback allows the Commission to conclude that the Directives are largely fit for purpose. The Directives have led to a higher level of protection for water bodies and flood risk management than could have been expected without them.

Read the full article:

➔ [Water Framework Directive Fitness Check](#)

### Drinking Water Directive

**Drinking Water Directive: Political agreement on recast between European Parliament and Council**

In February 2018 the Commission proposed a recast of the Drinking Water, as a direct follow-up to the Right2Water European Citizens' Initiative. The Proposal aimed at improving the quality of drinking water and access to it as well as provide better information to citizens.

Following the first reading in the European Parliament (Plenary of 28 March 2019), the two legislators Parliament and Council negotiated on achieving an early agreement. In December 2019 they arrived at an agreement, thus drastically shortening the legislative process. This political agreement clears the way for final adoption. EWA News provides you the key elements of the political agreement, on access to drinking water, better information of drinking water consumers, parameters and limit values, leakages in drinking water distribution networks, and materials in contact with drinking water.

#### [Agreement of text](#)

Read the full article:

➔ [Drinking Water Directive](#)

## Evaluation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive

### Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive - Evaluation

The European Commission has evaluated the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive to see whether the existing rules have reached their objectives, and whether they still serve their purpose. The assessment confirms that the Directive has proved very effective overall when fully implemented. The reduction of organic matter and other pollution in treated waste water has improved water quality throughout the European Union. Though implementing the Directive has been expensive, benefits clearly outweigh costs. Moreover, implementing the Directive remains crucial to meeting the objectives of other EU legislation, such as the Water Framework Directive and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

Read the full article:

➔ [Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive evaluation](#)

## Water Reuse Regulation

### Regulation on Water Reuse: Political agreement between European Parliament and Council

In May 2018 the Commission proposed legislation to address water reuse for agricultural irrigation: Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse, COM/2018/337 final: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52018PC0337>

Following the first reading in the European Parliament (Plenary of 12 February 2019), the two legislators Parliament and Council negotiated on achieving an early agreement. On December 2019 they arrived at an agreement, thus drastically shortening the legislative process. This political agreement clears the way for final adoption.

The new law defines minimum quality standards for reclaimed water to be used for agricultural irrigation as well as risk management measures.

To become law, the political agreement will have to be formally adopted by the Plenary of the European Parliament and by the Council. It will then be published as Regulation in the Official Journal of the European Union. The EP Environment Committee already approved the text on 21 January 2020.

Read the full article

➔ [Water Reuse Regulation](#)

## Brexit and water protection

### Two examples: Blackpool and Gibraltar

Under the Brexit Agreement between the European Union and the United Kingdom, the latter has exited from the EU by 31 January 2020, whilst remaining until 31 December 2020 within the EU internal market (in which the free movement of goods, services, capital and persons is assured, and in which citizens are free to live, work, study and do business).and the EU customs union, and being bound by the relevant EU legislation.

Looking back at the time since accession (1 January 1973), those more than 47 years of EEC/EC/EU membership have in the water protection sector achieved major, and irreversible steps forward, some of them like waste water treatment and quality of bathing waters only after long delays, and legal enforcement procedures at the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Two examples are set out below, the incomprehensible pollution of beaches at Blackpool, and the total lack

of any waste water treatment at Gibraltar.

Read the full article:

➔ [Brexit and water protection](#)

## Germany: groundwater pollution from agriculture

### Germany: dispute on pollution from agriculture goes increasingly public

Germany has been facing a considerable problem on pollution from agricultural sources, already subject to judgments of the Court of Justice of the European Union and court procedures before German courts. EWA reported on several occasions on the latest developments.

The recent traditional agricultural fair "Green Week" in Berlin provided opportunities both for farmers' organisations, water utilities and environmental organisations to make their point heard.

To recall, given time passed since June 2018 without compliance with the Court judgment, Germany is now facing possible considerable penalty payments under article 260 of the Lisbon Treaty - a measure the German Government intends to avoid by adopting new legislation on pollution from agriculture.

Read the full article:

➔ [Germany: groundwater pollution from agriculture](#)

## Court of Auditors on pesticides

### European Court of Auditors "Little progress from EU action on pesticides"

Progress towards measuring and reducing risks from pesticide use in the EU has been limited, according to a February 2020 report from the European Court of Auditors. Several Member States have been late in fully transposing the directive on sustainable use of pesticides, while incentives for farmers to adopt alternative methods remain weak. In addition, the European Commission is unable to precisely monitor the effects or risks resulting from pesticide use, say the auditors.

Plant protection products ("pesticides") are used to protect crops against harmful organisms, pests and diseases. They include insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, which can put pressure on the environment and pose risks to human health. Since 1991, the EU has had common rules on their authorisation and use, and in 2009 it adopted the directive on sustainable use of pesticides. The auditors assessed whether EU action in this respect had been successful.

Read the full article:

➔ [Court of Auditors on pesticides](#)

## Upholding the law

### Upholding the law Infringement procedures update January 2020

Past weeks have seen a range of legal enforcement actions by the Commission for non-compliance with EU water-related legislation, in particular Environmental Impact Assessment Directives and Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, EU waste and ship recycling legislation, EU nature protection legislation, Environmental Quality Standards Directive, Industrial Emissions Directive and Nitrates Directive.

This edition provides details on individual cases concerning:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Cyprus
- Estonia
- Finland
- Greece
- Ireland
- Latvia
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Portugal
- Slovakia
- Spain

as well as general information on the legal background (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union) and the legal procedure.

Read the full article:

➔ [Upholding the law](#)

## Barcelona Convention for the Mediterranean

### Barcelona Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean: Initiative towards mandatory limitation of emissions from shipping

'International shipping, otherwise vaunted for its efficiency, remains 'a real fossil' in one key area: air pollution'.

Olaf Tschimpke, president of the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), 2012

Shipping has increasingly become an important factor in air pollution and (indirectly) in water pollution, example SO<sub>2</sub> emissions: until recently, most marine fuels contained around 2.5 to 3% sulphur, 3000 times the amount allowed in EU road diesel (0.001%). As from 1 January 2020, an IMO requirement (MARPOL Convention, Annex VI) is to reduce the sulphur content permitted in ships fuel-oil globally from 3.5 per cent to 0.5 per cent. In most EU coastal waters already now 1% is prescribed, within Special Emission Control Areas under the IMO MARPOL Convention the percentage remains distinctly higher than for road diesel in the EU, with a limit of 0.1%.

Following the provisions of the MARPOL Convention, the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean have now, at their December 2019 Meeting of the Parties, requested the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to designate the Mediterranean Sea as an Emission Control Area for sulphur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub> ECAs).

Read the full article:

➔ [Barcelona Convention for the Mediterranean](#)

## European Parliament Questions

### European Parliament questions related to water

The European Parliament is directly elected by citizens of all Member States. One key element within its right to political control is the right to table written and oral questions to European Institutions, largely to the Commission, to a smaller extent to the Council. A total of 38 water-related questions have been tabled between the end of November 2019 and 6 February 2020. EWA News provides you in each edition with the summary text of the questions and their authors and date, plus a link to the full texts.

This issue 1/2020 provides also information on the impact of Brexit on the composition of the European Parliament, with a reduction in the number of members from 751 to 705, and changes in the composition of political groups.

Read the full article:

➔ [European Parliament questions related to water](#)

## EWA Events

### March 2020

31 March 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal:

➔ [EWA Green Capital Event 2020: 'Managing Climate Change and Resilience on the Wastewater in the Urban Sector'](#)

Lisbon was selected as the 2020 Green European Capital. This International Workshop will be supported by the Lisbon Municipality with involvement of the European Water Association (EWA), Lisbon International Center for Water (LisWater), and Águas do Tejo Atlântico (AdTA), and has the main objective to present and discuss the results of European large scale projects (BINGO and RESCCUE) about climate change adaption and resilience in the water sector, and to discuss the initiatives that are taken place in Lisbon city to adapt to climate change and increase resilience of the water sector especially regarding the management of domestic stormwater wastewater.

Participation in the workshop is free, but registration necessary.



## Research and Innovation in the European Water Sector

### EWA Meet & Greet Network Event at the IFAT 2020

On Tuesday 5 May, during the IFAT, the EWA would like to invite its research members, universities and/or research institutions to a Meet and Greet Event: Research and Innovation in the European Water Sector with the possibility to interact with the following representatives:

- Pavel Misiga, Head of unit "Circular Economy & Biobased Systems at DG Research, the European Commission
- Dr Christian Alecke, Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany

The two speeches will be followed by a network event. Please come to the experience.science.future networking area in Hall B4!

- ➔ [EWA activities](#)
- ➔ [IFAT Website](#)

## 20th EWA Symposium at the IFAT 2020

### "Integration of the Water Sector in the Circular Economy"

At the IFAT in Munich, Germany, 4-8 May 2020 we celebrate the 20th EWA Symposium with the title: "Integration of the water sector in the circular economy".

The Symposium will take place 6-7 May 2020 in Hall C2 at stage 2, and will be divided into four sessions:

- ① Session 1: The value of water
- ② Session 2: Water reuse in agriculture in industrial and urban areas
- ③ Session 3: Sludge management and use
- ④ Session 4: Blue and green infrastructures in urbanized areas

- ➔ [Program](#)
- ➔ [IFAT Website](#)



## University Challenge 2020

### Are your students ready to compete against fellow students from around the world?

Registration for University Challenge at the IFAT - the world's leading trade fair for water, sewage, waste and raw materials management - 4-8 May 2020 in Munich, Germany, is open.



If you are interested in joining the University Challenge with your students at the IFAT, write an email to [Mona Lorvik](mailto:mona.lorvik@ifat.com).

## November 2020

Save the dates:

17 November 2020 in Brussels, Belgium  
➔ 15th EWA Brussels Conference

18 November 2020 in Brussels, Belgium  
➔ EU Policy Seminar



## Other Events

### April 2020

IE Expo Shanghai, planned 21-23 April 2020, has been postponed:

- ➔ Read the [Press Release](#)
- ➔ [IE Expo Shanghai](#)

## May 2020

10-14 May in Vienna, Austria

➔ [13th IWA specialist group conference on "Large Wastewater Treatment Plants - LWWTP 2020"](#)

The conferences on Large Wastewater Treatment Plants (LWWTP) are the most traditional specialised conferences organized by IWA specialist groups.

19-22 May in Riga, Latvia

➔ [12th Eastern European IWA YWP Conference for Young Water Professionals](#)

The 12th Eastern European IWA YWP Conference for Young Water Professionals:  
"WATER RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS IN DIGITAL ERA"

## Until we meet again ..

The next EWA newsletter is due in April 2020.

Until then please visit us at:

➔ [Facebook](#) (@ewa.online.eu)

➔ [LinkedIn](#)

➔ [Twitter](#) (@water\_ewa)



Any suggestions, comments or content from the members to the next issue may be send to this [email](#).

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