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Newsletter October 2024

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News from EWA

New WEBSITE



We are excited to announce the launch of our new website!

You can visit it at our usual address: www.ewa-online.eu

We extend a special thank you to all our members who shared with us photos helping us enhance our website.

Our updated platform makes it easier than ever to access comprehensive information about the European Water Association, including our activities and events.

Don't miss out and explore it today!

New Corporate Member

CEBEDEAU



Today, we would like to present to you our newest corporate member CEBEDEAU.

Founded in 1947, CEBEDEAU is a private research and expertise center based in Belgium, dedicated to promoting sustainable development and preserving the environment, with a focus on water-related issues.

The "Centre Belge d'Etude et de Documentation de l'Eau" team is made up of some forty people with qualifications as laboratory technicians and field sampling technicians, as well as engineers and scientists. CEBEDEAU has its own accredited analysis laboratory. CEBEDEAU's mission is to support and promote the sustainable management of water resources and their content, such as energy, nutrients, etc. Our field of activity therefore extends to the water cycle in all its multiple stages. Whether it's industrial waters, drinking water, urban wastewater, rainwater or surface water, we meet the challenges. These include water pollution and scarcity issues, the circular economy, biodiversity in surface waters and water management in industry.

We fulfill this mission through research, technical assistance, consulting and education. Thanks to our experience in the field, we can offer our partners innovative, practical solutions. Water treatment, sampling and analysis, data processing and environmental microbiology are our main areas of expertise.

CEBEDEAU works with a variety of stakeholders, including industry, academic institutions, public agencies and water companies. Patented processes such as GRASS®, MEDIX®, BeFlow ®... have been developed within our institution in partnership with water companies. We also participate in various European collaborative research programs.

Welcome to the EWA network!

MARGIN

MARGIN Managing Groundwater Sustainability in Urban Areas: Quantifying the vulnerability of groundwater quality & quantity to climate change and urbanisation, and developing adaptation measures for cities

Interreg



Co-funded by
the European Union

Alpine Space

MARGIN

We are very happy to inform you that the European Water Association is a project partner in the **Interreg Alpine Space project MARGIN**.

Alpine cities face unique groundwater issues, including the impact of climate change and rising competition for groundwater use. To address these concerns, MARGIN helps cities understand their vulnerability and risk, building resilience to future groundwater changes.

The project offers city-tailored management for upcoming groundwater difficulties, creating the potential to replicate best practices and accelerate their implementation in Alpine cities, thus strengthening preparedness and capacity to cope with the impacts of climate change.

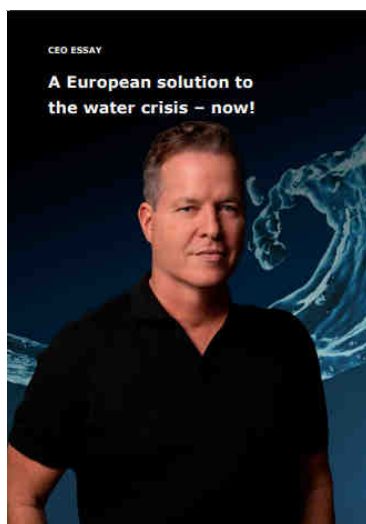
The project period is 01/09/2024 - 28/02/2027.

Arthur Guischet, Secretary General attended the Kick Off meeting in September in Munich.

We will keep you updated about the projects activities and outcomes via this newsletter and our website.

Members News

A European solution to the water crisis— now!



In this edition of the Newsletter, we would like to share with you the CEO essay from Oliver Hermes, President and CEO of the Wilo Group, EWA Corporate Member.

A holistic water strategy and its consistent implementation in the form of a Blue Deal would not only better prepare Europe for increasing water shortage. It would also create the positive narrative that Europe so urgently needs right now.

You can read the essay [here](#).

EWA EVENTS

New Webinar: Water Resilience in a city wide context

24.10.2024 - 11:00-12:30

"A water-resilient city is one that can survive and thrive in the face of water-related shocks and stresses—ranging from droughts to flooding, storm surges, pollution, and rising sea levels. These cities can adequately mitigate the impact on the urban water system, such as from earthquakes affecting



key water infrastructure."*

The recent tragic events in central and eastern Europe are a reminder of the importance of cities being adequately prepared for natural disasters.

This upcoming webinar, sponsored by our corporate member **Bentley Systems**, will focus on **'Water Resilience in a City-Wide Context'**, featuring presentations from a European Commission representative and a city official sharing their best practices and experiences. Following this, an Experts Roundtable will bring together diverse perspectives from various fields, such as digitalization, city planning, academia, and more. The event will take place on **October 24th from 11:00 to 12:30 CET** and offers an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and learn insights from successful initiatives across Europe."

The program of the webinar will be soon available on our website. You can however already register and save the date on your calendar!

Sponsor of the Conference



Registrations are open: 18th Brussels Conference

**19.11.2024****VIVAQUA, Brussels**

18th EWA Brussels Conference:

What future for the water sector after the European Elections?



In 2024, Europe stands at a pivotal moment in advancing towards a more sustainable and resilient future for its water sector. Alongside, the EU Parliamentary Election will shape the composition and priorities of the next Commission.

The **18th EWA Brussels Conference** will explore the post-election landscape of the water sector in Europe. Participants will engage in discussions including:

- A Roundtable on the Future of the water sector featuring representatives from various EU Institutions
- Climate change and its implications for the water sector
- The Recasting of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
- The future trajectory of the Water Framework Directive

This year's speakers will include EU Institutions representatives and experts from the EWA network, sharing best practices, experiences, and insights. The conference will provide a platform for dialogue among key water stakeholders, ranging from policymakers to end-users.

Join the discussion on **November 19th**.

Gold sponsor of the conference:



PROGRAM

18th EWA Brussels Conference – 19.11.2024

09:30 - 09:35	Welcome Address	Wendy Francken , EWA President
SESSION 1: CLIMATE EMERGENCY		<i>Moderation: Arthur Guischet, Secretary General, EWA</i>
09:35 - 10:00	Keynote: Climate Emergency & Water: Environmental perspective	Trine Christiansen , Head of Group for Freshwater and environment, European Environment Agency
10:00 - 10:45	Climate Change in the Water Sector Impulse + discussion /Q&A	Luc Kronenberg , European Affairs Brussel, VEWIN, Unie van Waterschappen Other speakers to be confirmed
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee Break sponsored by the Danish Water Forum (DWF)	
11:15 - 12:15	Roundtable: Future of the water sector in Europe after the European Elections?	Veronica Manfredi , Director, ENV C Zero Pollution, Directorate General Environment, European Commission Pietro Francesco de Lotto , President, Consultative Commission on Industrial Change (CCMI), European Economic and Social Committee Tania Pentcheva , Director Europe Government and Industry Relations, Xylem Wendy Franken , EWA President
12:20 - 13:40	Lunch Break	
SESSION 2 : URBAN WASTE WATER DIRECTIVE RECAST		<i>Moderation: Claudia Topalli, EMEA Senior Regulatory and Government Affairs Manager, IDEXX</i>
13:40 - 14:50	Impact of the UWWTD Recast Impulse + discussion/Q&A	Michel Sponar , Deputy Head of Unit European Commission, DG ENV C2, Marine Environment and Clean Water Services Hilde Niezen , Director Stichting RIONED Martin Srb , representant of the Czech Water Association (CzWA) SUEZ , Name to be confirmed, Dr. Frank Jörrens , Head of Water Quality/Laboratory Wasserverband Eifel-Rur
14:50 - 15:20	Coffee Break	
SESSION 3: WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE		
15:20 - 16:30	Impact of the WFD so far and looking at its future + Nature Restoration Law: Impulse + discussion/Q&A	Bettina Doeser , Head of Unit Natural Capital and Ecosystem Health ENV.D.2, European Commission Other speakers to be confirmed
16:30 - 16:45	Conclusion	Wendy Francken , EWA President
Invitation to network over drinks		

[REGISTER HERE](#)



News from Brussels

Topics covered in the News from Brussels

The articles in the News from Brussels section here below cover the following topics:

1. New European Commission 2024 - 2029: team of candidates presented to European Parliament
2. Jessika Roswall proposed as new Environment Commissioner 2024 - 2029
3. New European Citizens' Initiative started on water resilience
4. Sustainability Think Tanks: "Clean Industrial Deal by Commission to address also social and environmental concerns"
5. First EU-wide restrictions / bans on PFAS substances
6. EAWAG publication September 2024 "Recognising, conserving and promoting blue-green biodiversity"

7. Water back on the EU priority agenda
8. Water Europe 2024 conference report
9. Upholding the law: update on infringement procedures
10. Landmark judgment by Court of Justice on €2.4 billion fine imposed on Google
11. Landmark judgment by Court of Justice on taxation of Apple in Ireland: unlawful aid worth ~ €13 billion to be repaid
12. Penalty payment for Hungary, recovery by deduction after ignoring payment requests
13. European Parliament: water-related Parliamentary questions

1. New European Commission 2024 - 2029: team of candidates presented to European Parliament

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has introduced and proposed her future Commission team to the European Parliament on 17 September 2024.

All the proposed members of the new Commission must undergo scrutiny by the European Parliament (hearing in the responsible EP Committee), and then be subject to a vote on their suitability by Parliament. Note: In the past, several individual proposed candidates have been rejected by Parliament and then been replaced by another candidate from the same country. Following approval of the proposed team by Parliament, it is formally appointed following a QMV vote by the European Council.

EWA NEWS presents you the candidates as well as links to their outlines biographies and the mission letters they have received by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen.

Read the full article:

➔ [New Commission](#)

2. Jessika Roswall proposed as new Environment Commissioner 2024 - 2029

EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has introduced and proposed her future Commission team to the European Parliament on 17 September 2024.

The candidate for Environment Commissioner is Ms Jessika Roswall, currently Swedish Minister for EU the mission letter by Commission President von der Leyen to Ms Roswall, as well as an outline biography.

Read the full article:

➔ [New Environment Commissioner](#)

3. New European Citizens' Initiative started on water resilience

A new European Citizens' Initiative 'ECI for a Water-Smart and Resilient Europe' was registered in September 2024.

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements of the Initiative according to organisers, a short look back at the first ever Initiative 'Right to Water', the EU regulatory framework and an overview of all past such Initiatives.

Read the full article:

➔ [Citizen Initiative](#)

4. Sustainability Think Tanks: "Clean Industrial Deal by Commission to address also social and environmental concerns"

Directors of 10 European Sustainability Thinktanks grouped in Think Sustainable Europe voiced their ideas in a joint reply to Commission President's von der Leyen's political guidelines, as well as to the three key areas outlined in the Strategic Agenda of the European Council published in June this year.

Read the full article:

➔ [Env. Think Thanks](#)

5. First EU-wide restrictions / bans on PFAS substances

EU-wide restrictions of use of a sub-group of PFAS chemicals to protect human health and the environment

By decision of 19 September 2024, the Commission has adopted new measures under the REACH Regulation – the EU chemicals legislation - to protect human health and the environment by restricting the use of

- undecafluorohexanoic acid ('PFHxA') and
- PFHxA related substances.

These sub-groups of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances ('PFAS') are very persistent and mobile in water, and their use in certain products poses an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment.

The restriction imposed is distinct from the potential restriction on the entire PFAS group ('universal PFAS restriction') which the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is assessing following a 2023 proposal by five European governments.

Read the full article:

➔ [PFAS restrictions](#)

6. EAWAG publication September 2024 "Recognising, conserving and promoting blue-green biodiversity"

Where aquatic and terrestrial habitats converge, pervading and enriching each other, you find an incredible diversity of lifeforms. In the 'Blue-Green Biodiversity' research initiative, researchers from two renowned Swiss research institutes, Eawag and WSL, have investigated biodiversity at the interface between water and land. At the Info Day Special on 3 September 2024, the two research institutes jointly presented the results of selected projects. The most important results and key messages have also been published in the magazine 'Identifying, preserving and promoting blue-green biodiversity' which we would like to present to you here.

EWA NEWS presents you the abstracts in English, and links to the full report available in German and French only.

Read the full article:

➔ [EAWAG biodiversity](#)

7. Water back on the EU priority agenda

21 EU environment ministers ask the EU Commission for water to be a "top priority" while Ursula von der Leyen puts water in her guidance 2024-2029

In July 2024, 21 European environment ministers wrote to the European Commission to boost water security and resilience through a comprehensive approach. The newly elected President of the Commission has put water resilience back on the EU priorities.

EWA NEWS presents you these developments and links to the underlying documents.

Read the full article:

➔ [Water as a priority](#)

8. Water Europe 2024 conference report

Water Europe has in September 2024 published its new policy report on the Water Innovation Europe 2024 conference, which took place on 17-19 June in Brussels, attracting over 300 attendees who joined forces to shed light on a European Water-Smart Strategy.

Read the full article:

➔ [Water Europe Conference Report](#)

9. Upholding the law: update on infringement procedures

The European Union is constitutionally designed as a Union of Law. According to the Treaties (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union), Member States are obliged to comply with EU legislation adopted by the legislator (European Parliament and Council), and the Commission has the right and the obligation to scrutinise such compliance and where appropriate take legal action.

Past weeks saw a range of infringement procedures, from the Nitrates Directive to the Water Framework Directive, and from the Drinking Water Directive to the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, against the following Member States: Austria, Belgium, France Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia, and against all Member States in waste collection and recycling targets.

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements of the cases, an overview of the system of infringement procedures and links to environmental cases where the Court imposed financial sanctions.

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EWA NEWS provides you the key elements of the cases, an overview of the system of infringement procedures and links to environmental cases where the Court imposed financial sanctions.

Read the full article:

→ [Upholding the law](#)

10. Landmark judgment by Court of Justice on €2.4 billion fine imposed on Google

In 2017, the Commission imposed a fine of approximately €2.4 billion on Google for having abused its dominant position in several national online search markets by favouring its own comparison shopping service over those of its competitors. After the General Court essentially upheld that decision and maintained that fine, Google and Alphabet lodged an appeal before the Court of Justice, which dismisses that appeal and thus upholds the judgment of the General Court.

EWA NEWS provides you the background and the key elements of the judgment as well as a link to the full text of the judgment.

Read the full article:

→ [Google Judgment](#)

11. Landmark judgment by Court of Justice on taxation of Apple in Ireland: unlawful aid worth ~ €13 billion to be repaid

In 2016, the European Commission decided that companies belonging to the Apple Group had, from 1991 to 2014, received tax advantages that constituted State aid granted by Ireland. That aid related to the tax treatment of profits generated by Apple's activities outside the United States. In 2020, the General Court annulled the Commission's decision, holding that the Commission had not sufficiently established that those companies enjoyed a selective advantage.

On appeal, the Court of Justice sets aside the judgment of the General Court and gives final judgment (10 September 2024) in the matter, conversely confirming the Commission's decision. Euronews called the issue a "€13bn sweetheart tax deal" concluding "Low tax bills paid by the tech giant were an unlawful subsidy, EU judges ruled."

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements and reasons of the judgment, as well as a link to the full text of the judgment.

Read the full article:

→ [Ireland Apple judgment](#)

12. Penalty payment for Hungary, recovery by deduction after ignoring payment requests

Brussels moves to deduct €200 million fine from Hungary's EU funds, as country refuses to pay up

Budapest will soon be deprived of a share of its EU funds for refusing to pay the fine imposed by the European Court of Justice in June 2024.

The European Commission has triggered a special procedure to deduct the €200 million fine that the European Court of Justice (ECJ) has imposed on Hungary over the country's long-standing restrictions on the right to asylum. The fine has to be paid as a lump sum to the European Commission.

Budapest missed the first deadline in late August, prompting the executive to send a second payment request with a deadline of 17 September.

Since this second request was also ignored, the Commission said on 18 September 2024 it would activate the so-called "offsetting procedure" to subtract the €200 million fine from Hungary's allocated share of the EU budget. The mechanism will look into various financial envelopes expected to be disbursed to Hungary in the coming weeks. Around €21 billion of cohesion and recovery funds earmarked for Hungary remain frozen due to rule-of-law decline.

Read the full article:

→ [Hungary penalty payments](#)

13. European Parliament: water-related Parliamentary questions

15 water-related questions from Parliamentarians, from the water scarcity to waste water reuse, and from water pollution to the Water Framework Directive.

EWA News presents you the outline texts of the questions and the coordinates of the MEP who has submitted them, plus links to the full text and (once available) the answers.

Read the full article:

→ [EP Questions](#)

Other Events

SIDISA - XII International Symposium on Environmental Engineering

01-04.10.2024 - Palermo, Italy

SIDISA is a significant event for researchers and professionals that covers the entire panorama of Environmental Engineering. The topics deal with water, air, soil, and waste. Special emphasis will be given to advanced treatment and management issues, while addressing the needs of sustainable development, circular economy, and climate change mitigation.

The Symposium will provide a forum for sharing ideas, scientific results, and practical experiences. Discussion will range from the frontiers of research to the design and management of treatment plants, rehabilitation interventions and "City of the Future" concepts.

More information [here](#).



WEFTEC: Leading The Future of Water

05.10-09.10.2024 - New Orleans, LA, USA

WEFTEC is the world's most comprehensive gathering of water quality professionals and thought leaders, featuring the sector's leading conference program and a variety of valuable networking opportunities. It is where networks expand, ideas become solutions, and water quality innovation and expertise are on display.

More information [here](#).



IFAT India

16-18.10.2024 - Mumbai, India

For the past 10 years, IFAT India has been bringing together professionals and experts from various sectors of the water, sewage, waste and recycling industry, providing the entire industry with a platform for knowledge exchange, networking and the opportunity to forge partnerships between industry players, policy makers and environmental experts.

The show is also characterized by its comprehensive conference program. At IFAT India, topics such as wastewater systems, adequate wastewater treatment, sustainable ways of water supply, holistic waste management and recycling will be discussed to address the current environmental challenges through country- and region-specific solutions and innovations.

More information [here](#).



12th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition

05.11.2024 – 07.11.2024 - Prishtina, Kosovo

On behalf of SHUKOS and SHUKALB, (National member of the EWA), we are pleased to invite you to join the 12th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition.

The theme of the Conference "Neighborhoodly Cooperation: Promoting Peace through Transboundary Water Management", is inspired by World Water Day 2024, and highlights the pivotal role water plays in fostering peace and stability.



More information [here](#).

5th International Conference - Strategies toward Green Deal Implementation: Water, Raw Materials & Energy in Green Transition

27.11.2024–29.11.2024 - Online and Krakow, Poland

The conference will explore climate change and ways to prevent it. This includes innovative solutions (technological, environmental, economic and social) that can be implemented under the Green Deal strategies. The conference tackles a wide range of thematic areas, such as the circular economy, water reuse and recycling, and waste-free and environmentally friendly food systems. Scientists and entrepreneurs active in the fields of water, raw materials or energy are invited to present papers on studies covering environmental management, environmental protection and environmental engineering, with a focus on water, raw materials or energy.

More information [here](#).

19th DWF Water Research Conference

30.01.2025 - Aarhus, Denmark

You are invited to join the water day, where the latest results and achievements from the Danish water sector will be presented.

Call for abstracts are open until **10 November 2024**.

The plenary session will focus on how water is handled politically and scientifically in EU, now with a new parliament for the next 5 years.

The sessions planned are on among others:

- Groundwater management and mapping
- Water supply
- Treatment processes and optimization
- New technologies

More information [here](#).

Until we meet again ..

The next EWA Newsletter will be sent out December 2024.

Until then, please visit us at:

- ★ [LinkedIn](#) (European Water Association)
- ★ [Youtube](#): EWA Online

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

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More Information: <http://www.ewa-online.eu/>

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