



Newsletter April 2025

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News from EWA

Winner of the William Dunbar Medal



The European Water Association (EWA) is proud to announce **Professor Dr. Ir. Jules B. van Lier** as the recipient of the prestigious William Dunbar Medal for 2025. This biennial award, sponsored by **IFAT Munich**, recognizes individuals from EWA member countries who have made remarkable contributions to advancing technical innovations in the water sector.

Professor van Lier, renowned for his expertise in Wastewater Treatment and Environmental Engineering, serves as a full professor at Delft University of Technology (TUDelft) and heads the Section Sanitary Engineering. With dual roles at UN-IHE, Delft, he has passionately pursued groundbreaking research in anaerobic treatment technology. His work emphasizes cost-effective solutions for wastewater and sludge treatment, resource recovery, and reclaimed water reuse in agricultural and industrial settings.

Having earned both his MSc and PhD from Wageningen University, Professor van Lier has authored over 300 scientific papers and book chapters. His leadership in the IWA Anaerobic Digestion Specialist Group and recognition as an IWA Fellow highlight his significant impact on global water management.

On May 28th, at the **EWA/NWA Spring Seminar** in Oslo, themed "**Shaping the Future of Water Management in Europe**," Professor van Lier will be honored with the William Dunbar Medal. He will deliver a keynote address, further cementing his legacy of excellence in the water sector. More information about this event in the event section of the newsletter. You can read the full press release [here](#).

Please join us in congratulating Professor van Lier on this accomplishment.

EWA at EU Water Resilience Strategy Roundtable



On March 27th, Arthur Guischet, Secretary General of the European Water Association, had the honour and pleasure of representing EWA during a roundtable on water, organised by the **European Commission** in collaboration with Commissioner **Jessika Roswall**, who oversees Environment, Water Resilience, and the Competitive Circular Economy.

The roundtable was part of the ongoing discussions regarding the upcoming **EU Water Resilience Strategy**. This event provided a platform for meaningful dialogue on critical issues affecting the water sector across Europe.

During the session, Arthur shared EWA's key points, highlighting the importance of:

- Water as a strategic resource that must be treated with the utmost care and priority.
- The dual challenge of ageing infrastructure and a growing workforce shortage, which represent significant concerns for the water sector.
- The need for a "Water Efficiency First" principle to be implemented across Europe to ensure sustainable water management.
- The importance of supporting the adoption of existing technologies that can generate clean, high-quality data, which is vital for informed decision-making by relevant stakeholders.

He also took the opportunity to express his gratitude to Commissioner Jessika Roswall and her team for organising the event and for providing EWA with the chance to contribute to this important discussion.

As always, EWA remains committed to advancing solutions that promote water sustainability, resilience, and efficiency for all European stakeholders.

Picture copyright: European Union 2025

MARGIN Meeting

After the successful Kick-Off meeting in Munich last year, the **MARGIN** project partners reunited last week, on March 26th and 27th, for a productive two-day meeting in Vienna. Hosted by Geosphere, the meeting brought together all project stakeholders to review the progress made, tackle ongoing challenges, and strategize the next steps for the three-year MARGIN project.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a fascinating hands-on demonstration by our partner from the University of Vienna, who "fished" a water sample from the well. This glimpse into the practical work driving the initiative forward showcased the dedication and expertise that each partner brings to the table.

MARGIN is an **Interreg Alpine Space** project focused on Managing Groundwater Sustainability in Urban Areas. The project aims to quantify the vulnerability of groundwater quality and quantity to both climate change and urbanization, while developing effective adaptation measures for cities to ensure long-term sustainability.

The next project meeting is scheduled for September, and we are motivated to maintain momentum and work towards achieving our goals. We look forward to continuing the collaboration and tackling the challenges ahead!

For more information about the MARGIN project, visit the official [project website](#).



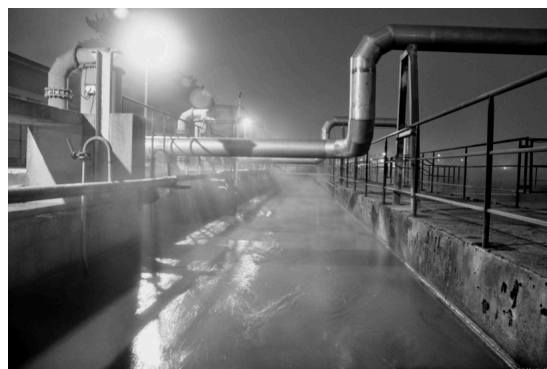
EWA EVENTS

EWA/JRC Webinar: Water Reuse & EU competitiveness

03.04.2025 - 10:00 - 11:30

We invite you to join our upcoming online webinar, organised jointly with **JRC Water Reuse Technical Workshop**, titled "**Water Reuse & EU competitiveness**".

The workshop will provide an in-depth look at how industry is currently implementing water reuse projects with the support of water actors. Based on the examples provided during the event, we will discuss how water is a strategic resource and should be treated as such, especially facing extreme weather event on a more regular basis.



It will include presentations from experts: **WILO** will present the H2powerplant with solar panel and reused water in place at the WILOPARK in Dortmund, Germany. A second presentation will present a plaster production and industrial water reuse with inputs from **SUEZ** and **ETEX**. Participants will gain practical insights from real-world example, sharing the issues they faced in their respective projects and suggestion to scale-up.

This webinar promises to be an invaluable opportunity for learning and discussion, and we look forward to your participation as we work together to advance water reuse practices throughout the EU.

This virtual event is scheduled for **April 3rd, 2025**, at 10:00 - 11:30 CET.

You can learn more about the webinar and register [here](#).

EWA/Xylem Webinar: EU Water Resilience Strategy

14.05.2025 - 11:00-12:30

"Water is increasingly under pressure, and we cannot take it for granted. We need to strategically think about this resource – just like we have done on energy. We must map this emerging critical risk because this is about our preparedness, resilience, and economic security." EU Commissioner Jessika Roswall, responsible for Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy.

"The Water Resilience Strategy (WRS) is a critical and long-overdue initiative. It should be a key step towards appreciating the intrinsic value of water for our humanity, ecosystems and the EU's Strategic autonomy" MEP and Rapporteur of the European Parliament Report on the WRS Thomas Bajada.

In 2024, much like the previous year, witnessed numerous flooding and drought events across the continent, underscoring the critical role of water in our society. This significance extends not only to citizens but also to our economy. Significantly, "**Water**" has been included in an EU Commissioner's portfolio for the first time. Additionally, the Water Resilience Strategy was featured in the European Commission's political guidelines for 2024-2029 under the leadership of Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission.

Looking ahead to 2025, the EU Commission has launched the **Water Resiliency Strategy** (WRS). This strategy aims to develop a comprehensive, multi-annual cross-sectoral plan with milestones set for 2030 and 2040. Its objectives include enhancing Europe's water resilience, ensuring sustainable management of water sources, addressing scarcity, and fostering competitiveness and innovation within the water industry through a circular economy approach.

This upcoming webinar, sponsored by **Xylem**, will focus on "**EU Water Resilience Strategy**" featuring presentations from a European Commission representative and the EU Parliament sharing their best opinions on the WRS. Following this, an Experts Roundtable will bring together diverse perspectives from water operators and the industry sector. The event will take place on **March 14th from 11.00am to 12.30pm** CET and offers an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and learn more about the WRS.

Sponsor of the Webinar



> REGISTER NOW



EWA/NWA Spring Seminar 2025: Shaping the Future of Water Management in Europe

28.05.2025 - Oslo, Norway

The revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) came into effect on January 1st, 2025, meaning its transposition into national law must be completed by June 30, 2027. **The European Water Association** (EWA) is dedicating its **2025 Spring Seminar** to this topic, in partnership with the **Norwegian Water Association** (NWA).

While scientific studies have increasingly supported the need for the revised UWWTD, its implementation presents significant challenges for utilities across Europe.

The goal of this conference is to create a platform for better understanding these challenges and to explore ways in which utilities and authorities can collaborate to improve European waters.

You can find more information and the detailed program on the [official event page](#).

New Introduction Course to Eu Water Policy and Legislation

17 & 18.06.2025

We are very happy to share with you the date of our next course.

Participants will be made familiar with development and principles of EU water policy, the decision-taking and implementation/scrutiny process, governance at EU level, as well as the key legislative elements of EU water policy and their implementation.

You can consult the program and register on our [website](#).

INTRODUCTION COURSE TO EU WATER POLICY AND LEGISLATION



17 & 18 June
10:30 AM - 01:00 PM



Join us !



with Arthur Guischet
EWA Secretary General

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. Legal actions to challenge the EPR scheme in front of the European Court of Justice
2. The European Water Resilience Strategy

3. EU Green Week 2025
4. Judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union
5. Evaluation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and The Bathing Water Directive
6. Upholding the law
7. European Parliament, water-related Parliamentary questions
8. Final meeting for the Co-UDlabs - Building Collaborative Urban Drainage research labs project
9. New substances added to the EU's surface water watchlist

1. Legal actions to challenge the EPR scheme in front of the European Court of Justice

Several organisations and a Member State (EFPIA, Cosmetics Europe, 10 members of Medicines for Europe and Poland) have filed legal actions to challenge the EPR scheme under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive Recast.

Read the full article:

➔ [Legal actions](#)

2. The European Water Resilience Strategy

The European Water Resilience Strategy will aim to tackle water efficiency, scarcity, pollution, and risks while boosting the water industry's innovation, clean tech, circular economy practices, and digitalisation.

Several activities took place on this topic in the last weeks:

- A stakeholder consultation event – Towards a Water Resilience Strategy for the EU was hosted by the EU Commission
- Public hearing on an EU Water Resilience Strategy and an EU Blue Deal took place in the ENVI Committee at the EU Parliament
- Publication of the draft report on the European Water Resilience Strategy by the ENVI Committee from the EU Parliament

Read the full article:

➔ [European Water Resilience Strategy](#)

3. EU Green Week 2025

This year's topic for the EU Green Week is: Circular solutions for a competitive EU. The 2025 Green week will take place from Tuesday 3rd of June until Thursday 5th of June. Registrations to the EU Green Week conference will open in April on the Green Week website.

Read the full article:

➔ [EU Green Week 2025](#)

4. Judgement of the Court of Justice of the European Union

Urban waste water treatment: the Court imposes financial penalties on Italy for failing to comply with its collection and treatment obligations for four agglomerations.

Read the full article:

➔ [Judgment of the Court of Justice](#)

5. Evaluation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and The Bathing Water Directive

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive stems from 2008. Its objective was to achieve good environmental status for European seas by 2020, meaning that they are clean, healthy, and productive. It does so across eleven descriptors (such as biodiversity, contaminants, and litter).

The Bathing Water Directive, adopted in 2006, regulates the management of bathing water quality at around 22,000 bathing sites across the EU. It monitors the quality of bathing water for two microbiological parameters and requires that management measures are taken when needed and that the relevant information is made available to the public.

On March 6, the Commission published evaluations of two directives on the protection of EU seas and oceans and on the quality of bathing waters on land.

The evaluation has found that the Marine Strategy Framework Directive has put in place an ambitious framework to better monitor the state of our seas and protect marine life from pollution and unsustainable practices. It has, however, not fully achieved its good environmental status objectives, which were originally due in 2020, and there is clear scope for the reduction of administrative burden through regulatory simplification and enhanced data management.

The Bathing Water Directive has been effective in protecting bathers in the EU. Based on the latest available data, in 2023, no less than 85% of bathing water sites at sea and on land were rated 'excellent' in the EU and minimum water quality standards were met at 96% of sites. The evaluation concludes, however, that there is scope for enhancing the actual level of both health and environmental protection in better alignment with the EU's One Health and Clean Competitiveness ambitions while reducing administrative burdens by enhancing coherence with the Water Framework Directive.

Read the full article:

➡ [Marine and Bathing Water Directive](#)

6. Upholding the law

Infringement procedures update as per 27 January 2025

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 Single Use plastic directive to the Landfill Directive, against the following Member States:

Romania
France
Italy
Estonia

The Commission is at the same time closing a double-digit number of cases in which the issues with the Member States concerned have been solved without the Commission needing to pursue the procedure further.

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](#)

7. European Parliament, water-related Parliamentary questions

Members of the European Parliament show a regular interest of water issues in their Parliamentary questions.

In the period between 28 January and 28 March 2025, 35 water-related questions were tabled, from drinking water quality to the UWWTD Recast to the water and energy nexus.

Read the full article:

➡ [EP questions](#)

8. Final meeting for the Co-UDlabs - Building Collaborative Urban Drainage research labs project.

The Co-UDlabs project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101008626.

As Co-UDlabs - Building Collaborative Urban Drainage research labs communities is coming to an end in April 2025, project partners celebrated and presented the achievements of 4 years of collaborative work during a final info day which took place on March 18th, at the Fundación Galicia Europa in Brussels.

Read all the information about the project on the link below.

Read the full article:

→ [Co-UDlabs final meeting](#)

9. New substances added to the EU's surface water watchlist

The Commission has adopted a new watchlist of substances in surface waters suspected of posing a risk to the environment and human health.

It contains twelve pollutants, including pesticides and pharmaceuticals, a sunscreen agent, and an antioxidant used in tyres, the impacts of which have been identified as a possible widespread concern by EU Member States' experts.

Member States will monitor the listed substances at a limited number of monitoring stations in selected representative surface waters for at least the next two years to provide data on their concentrations and environmental presence.

Read the full article:

→ [New EU watch list](#)

Other Events

IE expo China

21 - 23.04.2025 - Shanghai

An almost inexhaustible market, China is an economic powerhouse and a growing nation with a high demand for innovative solutions from the field of environmental technologies. IE expo China in Shanghai—Asia's leading trade fair for environmental technologies—reflects the demand for products and services in the fields of water, waste, air, and soil.



Visit the [official website](#) to learn more.

Flint Water Crisis Deep-Dive: Lessons Learned

24.04.2025 - Online

The Flint Water Crisis, caused by a negligent water source switch in 2014, led to lead contamination, a public health crisis, lawsuits, and criminal charges. This online training, led by former EPA Flint Emergency Coordinator Anthony Ross, offers insights into preventing similar crises and understanding regulatory failures. Topics include the Safe Drinking Water Act, corrosion control, and government accountability. It's ideal for public water system operators, regulators, decision-makers, and emergency responders.



*Improving Drinking Water
Quality For Everyone!*

Visit the [official website](#) to learn more.

Advancing EU Water Directives: Forum on Innovation, Sustainability, and Collaboration

07-08.05.2025 - Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár), Romania

The Hungarian Water Partnership (HWP) and the Eco-Innovation Cluster for Sustainable Environment (CLEMS) are jointly organising a conference titled: The "Advancing EU Water Directives: Forum on Innovation, Sustainability, and Collaboration". This event will be held in Cluj-Napoca (Kolozsvár)-Romania at Babeş-Bolyai University, Faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering on May 07-08, 2025.

More information about this event are available [here](#).



IFAT Eurasia

15-17.05.2025 - Istanbul

Launched in 2015, IFAT Eurasia provides a platform for the Eurasian environmental technology sector and has managed to get off to a successful start in a dynamic market. Since then, IFAT Eurasia has been able to assert its claim of being the leading business platform for environmental technologies in an emerging market.

Visit the [official website](#) to learn more.



Danube Water Conference

14-16.05.2025 - Vienna, Austria

The 2025 Danube Water Conference, themed "Looking back, Looking forward: A State of the Sector Update," is set to take place in Vienna from 14 to 16 May, 2025. Organized by the Danube Water Program in collaboration with IAWD and the World Bank, and co-funded by the Austrian Government, this prestigious event coincides with IAWD and World Bank business meetings, the annual UBP Danube Hub workshop, and a pre-event for Young Water Professionals.

Focusing on both current challenges and future prospects of the region's water sector, the conference will feature sessions showcasing best practices and interactive discussions aimed at innovating solutions. Central to the agenda is the presentation of draft results from the World Bank's ongoing update of the State of the Sector Report, offering a comprehensive view of the sector's evolution, challenges, and opportunities.

For more details, visit the [official event website](#).



IFAT Brasil

25-27.05.2025 - Sao Paulo

Driven by the government's privatization strategy, the Brazilian wastewater sector is set for rapid development over the next decade. This shift will attract significant private investment, leading to substantial growth in environmental technologies for water collection, treatment, distribution, and wastewater management. As part of IFAT Worldwide's renowned portfolio, IFAT Brasil 2025 will again be a central hub for networking and exchanging knowledge and innovations.

Visit the [official website](#) to learn more.



IFAT Africa

08.07.2025–10.07.2025 - Johannesburg, South Africa

IFAT Africa is the ultimate platform to showcase technologies and solutions for water, sewage, refuse and recycling for the sub-Saharan Africa market. The trade fair is the gateway for international companies to the African market and for African enterprises to the global market, connecting key industry players with senior buyers and decision makers in the region. As Africa's leading environmental trade fair, IFAT Africa offers an effective business and networking platform for South African and international professionals in the environmental sector and is accompanied by a first-class supporting program. It is the ideal platform for professionals in the environmental industry to develop business, exchange ideas and network.

More information on the [official website](#).



CEST 2025

03 - 06.09.2025 - Kos island, Greece

Started in 1989, the International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology (CEST) is a leading environmental conference where top experts, scientists, entrepreneurs, representatives of public administration and social initiatives present



state-of-the-art research on current and emerging environmental issues. The Global Network of Environmental Science and Technology is organizing the conference jointly with the University of the Aegean (Greece), the University of Salerno (Italy), and the Open University of Cyprus (Cyprus).

CEST2025 is announced at a pivotal time when the intensifying climate crisis is challenging the resilience of societies worldwide and reshaping the planet's natural systems.

More information on the [official website](#).

IFAT Munich 2026

04-07. Mai 2026- Munich, Germany

IFAT Munich is the World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management.

Here you can successfully present your strategies and new solutions from the fields of water, wastewater, waste and raw materials management. So that in future even more resources can be preserved in intelligent cycles in the long term and with the greatest possible efficiency.
You can now register to exhibit.

Apply to be an exhibitor by April 30th [here](#).

More information about the fair on the [official website](#).

Until we meet again ..

The next EWA Newsletter will be sent out June 2025.

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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