



Newsletter June 2025

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News from EWA

New Corporate Member

Nepta

UNA SOCIETÀ ITALGAS

We are pleased to welcome Nepta S.p.A. as the newest Corporate Member of EWA!

Nepta S.p.A., established in 2023 and headquartered in Milan, is part of the Italgas Group, inheriting its long-standing expertise in water service management dating back to 1941.

Created to consolidate the Group's presence in the water sector, Nepta's mission is to drive the digital transformation of Italy's water infrastructure and services, using cutting-edge technologies developed for gas distribution. Operating in Lazio, Sicily, and Campania, Nepta serves 6.3 million people—about 10% of Italy's population. Its strategy centers on real-time monitoring, artificial intelligence, and smart systems to reduce water loss, improve efficiency, and support sustainability. Nepta follows three core principles: responsibility in managing water as a vital resource, innovation through digital technologies, and contributing to national development and ecological transition.

You can learn more on the [official website](#).

Please join us in welcoming them in the EWA Network.

New EWA Management Committee

The EWA Council meeting took place last week on May 27th and our National Members elected a new President and a new Vice-President:

- **Harsha Ratnaweera** from Norway was elected as new EWA President for the period 2025-2027
- **Elisabeta Poci** from Albania was elected as new EWA Vice-President for the period 2025-2027 – Elisabeta has also been elected as Members representative for the same period as well.

Learn more about our newly elected members [here](#).

Additionally, Mara Pavelic and Johann Wiedner have chosen not to seek re-election as members representative. They are succeeded by:

- **Raymond Erpelding** from Luxembourg for the period 2025-2027
- **Jesper Goodley Dannisøe** from Denmark for the period 2025-2027

Wendy Francken from Belgium transitions to EWA Past President and retains her position on the Management Committee (MC).

We extend our gratitude to her for her active tenure as EWA President over the past two years.

We warmly welcome our new leaders and extend sincere thanks to Mara and Johann for their dedicated

service to the EWA.

In recognition of their commitment, both have been awarded EWA Honorary membership during the EWA Council meeting in Oslo.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended the EWA Council meeting, whether in person in Oslo or online, for their valuable participation and support.



William Dunbar Medal Ceremony at the EWA/NWA Spring Seminar

We are delighted to announce the recent **William Dunbar Medal Ceremony**, held during the EWA/NWA Spring Seminar in Oslo, Norway on May 28th. This prestigious award, presented biennially by the European Water Association (EWA) with support from **IFAT / Messe München**, honors leaders in water innovation.

This year, **Professor Jules Van Lier** from Delft University of Technology and UN-IHE received the William Dunbar Medal for his exceptional contributions to wastewater treatment and environmental engineering. Throughout his career, Professor Van Lier has dedicated himself to advancing technical developments in the water sector, making significant strides in sustainability and resilience.

The ceremony was part of the **EWA/NWA Spring Seminar 2025: Shaping the Future of Water Management in Europe** focusing on the revised EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. This event brought together experts, policymakers, and innovators to discuss the future of water management in Europe. It underscored the critical importance of collaborative efforts in achieving resilient and sustainable water systems.

Join us in congratulating Professor Jules Van Lier on this well-deserved recognition. You can read the full press release [here](#).



25th Anniversary of the Interreg Alpine Space Programme

On May 12-14, 2025, **Interreg Alpine Space** celebrated its **25 years anniversary** of transnational cooperation in the region, in Salzburg, Austria.
34 Interreg Alpine Space projects showcased their work through creative and interactive booths.

Of course, the project **MARGIN** proudly presented its project cube at the ASP Expo. Visitors had the chance to explore our mission and approach in a hands-on way – including a fun quiz that sparked lively discussions!
The project was represented by two of their partners: the Technical University of Munich (TUM) - lead partner of the project and CLIMATE ALLIANCE.

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.

The project aims to develop effective adaptation measures to safeguard groundwater quality and quantity, essential for drinking water, energy, and ecosystem health. By examining the four pilot cities Milan, Ljubljana, Linz and Munich and involving a Network of Observers, MARGIN will enhance city planning and policy-making through a practical toolbox of guidelines and best practices. This initiative will empower cities to responsibly manage their groundwater resources and build resilience against environmental challenges.

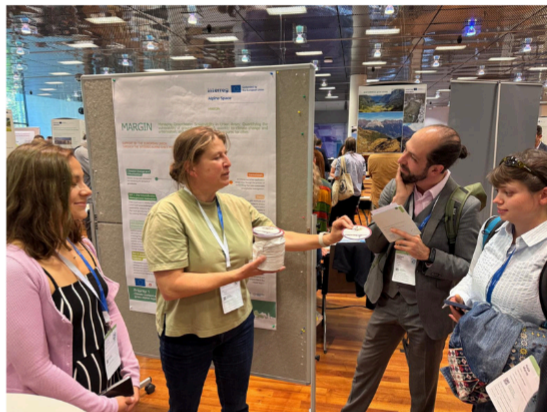
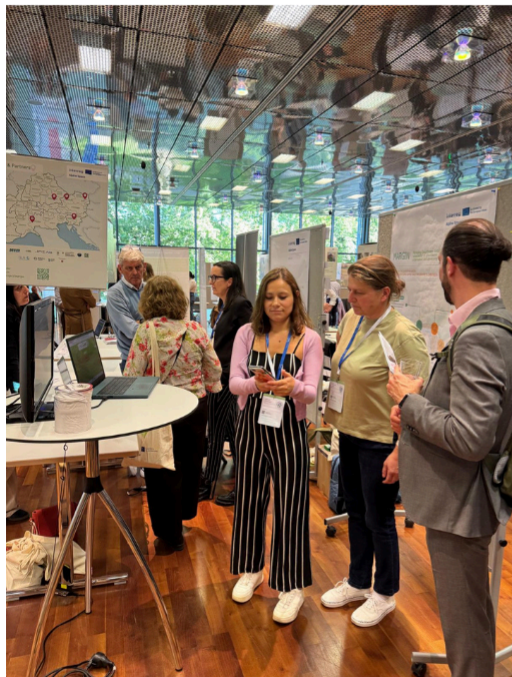
MARGIN: Your city's blueprint for sustainable groundwater management

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

25th Anniversary of the Alpine Space Programme

📅 12 - 14 May 2024

📍 Salzburg, Austria



EWA EVENTS

NEW DATE: EWA/Xylem Webinar: EU Water Resilience Strategy

10.06.2025 - 11:00-12:00

In 2024, much like the previous year, we 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 intervention from a European Commission representative to present the key points of the Water Resilience Strategy. Following this, an Experts Roundtable will bring together diverse perspectives from water operators and the industry sector.

The event will take place on **June 10th from 11:00 to 12:00 CEST** and offers an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and learn more about the WRS.

Sponsor of the Webinar

MEET THE SPEAKERS:



Pernille Weiss-Ehler

Member of Cabinet for
Environment, Water Resilience
and Competitive Circular
Economy,
European Commission



Tania Pentcheva

Director Europe Government
and Industry Relations,
Xylem



Jan van der Steen

European Affairs
Brussel,
VEWIN

Moderator:



Arthur Guischet

Secretary General
European Water
Association



Introduction Course to Eu Water Policy and Legislation

17 & 18.06.2025

Our next course is full but we are already planning the next one!

If you are interested to participate, send us a quick [mail](#) and we will save you a spot for the next session after the summer holiday.

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. European Environment Agency launched a new interactive map on droughts
2. ZeroPollution4Water Cluster
3. European Parliament approved recommendation for the Water Resilience Strategy
4. EEA & PFAS polymers in focus of supporting Europe's zero pollution
5. Soil Monitoring Trilogue agreement
6. Horizon Europe work programme 2025
7. Joint statement signed by EWA
8. EPR Legal cases – publication EU Official Journal
9. Question European Parliament
10. Upholding the law

1. European Environment Agency launched a new interactive map on droughts

The European Environment Agency launched a new interactive map showing ecosystems exposed to drought.

Droughts, once considered rare in Europe, are now becoming a persistent and intensifying threat due to climate change, unsustainable water use, and land degradation. In response, the European Environment Agency has launched a new interactive map using near real-time data to monitor drought-exposed ecosystems across 38 countries, supporting more effective water resource management.

It is available [here](#).

Read the full article:

➔ [EEA new interactive map](#)

2. ZeroPollution4Water Cluster

The overview and the inventory of 32 case studies in drinking and groundwater

This report aims to provide an overview about the 32 case studies of seven ZeroPollution4Water Cluster projects. These seven projects have received funding under Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme in 2022 and aim at preventing groundwater pollution and securing drinking water quality. In line with the zero-pollution ambition of the European Green Deal the seven projects will use the case studies to increase the preparedness of the EU water sector for challenges arising from climate change and support EU environmental legislation and policies related to groundwater and drinking water consumer protection. They focus on preventing freshwater pollution, enhancing water quality, and ensuring safe use for both humans and ecosystems, among others. The approach involves the entire drinking water production cycle, with an emphasis on developing innovative and robust monitoring and early-warning systems on drinking water quality, from sources to drinking water supply.

Read the full article:

➔ [ZeroPollution4Water Cluster](#)

3. European Parliament approved recommendation for the Water Resilience Strategy

EP approves recommendation for the Water Resilience Strategy

The Water Resilience Strategy is expected to be published on June 4th by the Commission.

On 7 May 2025, the European Parliament adopted its own-initiative report on the forthcoming EU Water Resilience Strategy, which the European Commission is set to present on 4 June 2025. With 470 votes in favour, 81 against, and 92 abstentions, Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) called for a comprehensive strategy to enhance the EU's capacity to manage water resources effectively and address growing water-related challenges.

Read the full article:

➔ [EP approves WRS](#)

4. EEA & PFAS polymers in focus of supporting Europe's zero pollution

European Environmental Agency: '[PFAS polymers in focus: supporting Europe's zero pollution, low-carbon and circular economy ambitions](#)'

A recent European Environment Agency (EEA) assessment highlights that PFAS polymers—widely used in consumer goods and green technologies—can cause serious environmental and health impacts throughout their lifecycle, including contributing to climate change and ozone depletion.

See also: <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/pfas-polymers-in-focus>

Read the full article:

➔ [EEA & PFAS](#)

5. Soil Monitoring Trilogue agreement

Following a [joint letter from 10 NGOs](#) on the urgent need to reach a strong agreement on the Soil Monitoring Law during the political trilogue negotiations on 9 April 2025, an agreement has been reached on April 9th during the next trilogue meeting.

The provisional agreement will now have to be endorsed by the Council and the Parliament. It will then be formally adopted by both institutions following legal-linguistic revision.

Read the full article:

➡ [Soil Monitoring Trilogue agreement](#)

6. Horizon Europe work programme 2025

The Commission has published the Work Programme for Horizon Europe on 14 May 2025. In this context DG ECHO has published an overview of opportunities for disaster and climate preparedness topics: [Hundreds of millions of euros available for preparedness-focused research](#) | [UCP Knowledge Network](#).

Read the full article:

➡ [Horizon Europe work programme 2025](#)

7. Joint statement signed by EWA

Joint statements signed by the EWA.

EWA co-signs letter calling on Commission to protect EPR schemes:

On 1st January 2025, the recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) entered into force, introducing ambitious new requirements to remove micropollutants from wastewater, reach energy neutrality, strengthen the circular economy, promote water reuse as well as improve transparency and access to sanitation. This marks a significant milestone for the protection of public health and water resources in Europe.

A cornerstone of this legislation is the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, which ensures that the two most polluting sectors, the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries – jointly responsible for 92% of micropollutants in wastewater according to the European Commission's impact assessment – cover at least 80% of the costs of the 'quaternary treatment' needed to remove micropollutants. Representatives from across the water sector – including utilities, local governments, NGOs, and technology providers – are united in their call to the European Commission to uphold the EPR scheme and to avoid any revisions that would jeopardise a timely, equitable, and effective implementation of the recast Directive.

See also: <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7325505116889866240>

EWA co-signs letter calling for the swift adoption of updated EU water pollution standards following a first letter in November 2024.

This joint open letter demanding action on EU water pollution is signed by 17 public and private entities including drinking water and wastewater service providers, environmental civil society organisations, healthcare professionals, social partners, recreational fishing associations, business relying on clean and healthy water as well as local authorities.

It emphasises shared deep concerns about the slow progress in adopting the proposed new EU water pollution standards, as well as proposals to weaken and delay implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It calls on EU policymakers to stop delaying urgently needed updates of EU water pollution rules and standards.

See more here: <https://eeb.org/library/open-letter-calling-for-swift-adoption-of-updated-eu-water-pollution-standards/>

Read the full article:

➡ [Joint Statement](#)

8. EPR Legal cases – publication EU Official Journal

In the last edition of the EWA Newsletter, we informed you about several ongoing legal cases regarding the Extended Producer Responsibility in the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive Recast. All of them have been published in the EU Official Journal. You can find the list on the link below.

Read the full article:

➡ [EPR Legal cases](#)

9. Question European Parliament

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

In the period between 29 March and 30 May 2025, 28 water-related questions were tabled, from drinking water quality to the UWWTD Recast to the water and energy nexus.

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](#)

10. Upholding the law

Infringement procedures update as of May 30:

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:

Czech Republic
Portugal
Ireland
Slovakia
Italy

The Commission is at the same time closing 83 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](#)

Other Events

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](#).

Euro-MIC COST Action – Closing Workshop & Conference

17-19.09.2025 - Horsens, Denmark or Online

Join the grand finale of Euro-MIC COST Action! Experience insightful company visit at Grundfos, engaging workshops and conference, and delightful social events. Enjoy a city walk, explore the industrial museum, and savor Danish cuisine at a local microbrewery. Cap off the event with a memorable conference dinner at "The Prison." Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity! The event is in hybrid format.



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

IE expo Guangzhou

17-19.09.2025 - Guangzhou

With IE expo Guangzhou there is also a regional edition of IE expo China, focusing on the market in South China. IE expo Guangzhou takes place at the China Import & Export Fair Complex.



Key Facts IE expo Guangzhou 2023:

Exhibitors: 417
Visitors: 17.445
Exhibition space: 30.000 m²

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.



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

Until we meet again ..

The next EWA Newsletter will be sent out August 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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More Information: <http://www.ewa-online.eu/>

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