



Newsletter August 2025

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News from EWA

New Research Member

We are pleased to welcome **Niccolò Cusano University** as the newest Research Member.



Niccolò Cusano University is a non-state public university. The Engineering Department offers Bachelor and Master courses in several engineering fields. Three Doctoral courses are active in the engineering field. The interested research group is an interdisciplinary one, joining knowledge and experiences in the fields of environmental engineering and life cycle sustainability assessment (LCSA) integrating Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), Life Cycle Costing (LCC), and Social Life Cycle Assessment (S-LCA).

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

Please join us in welcoming them in the EWA Network.

EWA at EXPOAPA 2025



The European Water Association (EWA) was proud to be present at the **EXPOAPA 2025** Regional Water Forum "Danube – Eastern Europe", held from 23 to 25 June 2025 in Bucharest, Romania. This high-level regional event, organised by [Asociația Română a Apei](#) (Romanian Water Association), brought together key stakeholders from across Europe to exchange knowledge and foster collaboration in the water sector.

Arthur Guischet, representing the European Water Association, played an active role in several key moments of the event. On Monday, he had the honour of delivering opening remarks, following **Ilie Vlaicu**, President of Asociația Română a Apei, and **Roxana Minzatu**, Executive Vice-President of the European Commission, in charge of Social Rights and Skills, Quality Jobs and Preparedness.

On Tuesday, he joined the Roundtable on **Water Resilience** in Eastern Europe, held in the presence of Commissioner **Jessika Roswail**, European Commissioner responsible for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy. Read more on the [NEWS section](#) of our website.

EWA visits WVER Wastewater Treatment Plant in Aachen-Soers



On July 8th, EWA Secretary General Arthur Guischet and EWA Communications Officer Carlyne Herten had the opportunity to visit the Aachen Soers wastewater treatment plant, managed by **WVER Wasserverband Eifel-Rur**.

Aachen, like many other cities, is dealing with challenges posed by climate change. While overall precipitation levels have remained stable, the patterns of rainfall have altered significantly. This necessitates effective management of both stormwater and periods of drought. Additionally, the wastewater treatment plant faces a significant **recruitment challenge** within the sector and they're preparing for **changes due to the revision of the UWWTD**.

Dr. Frank Jörrens and Hermann Stepkes gave us a great tour of the plant and showed us some of its unique features. The facility includes: **Six retention soil filters**, a **fourth treatment stage using an ozone system**

and a **state-of-the-art training center**.

To tackle the staffing issue, **WVER** set up a training center where young people can train to become mechatronics engineers, electronics technicians for industrial systems, or wastewater tech specialists. It's a fantastic opportunity for students to gain hands-on experience and move straight into a job with lots of career growth. For the plant, it means having well-trained and motivated staff ready to step in.

A great example for everyone.

👤 A big thank you to Frank and Hermann for this special visit!

🔗 For more info: <https://wver.de/>

EWA on YouTube



The first half of the year has been a busy one for EWA, packed with engaging webinars addressing some of the most pressing water-related topics in Europe.

Here's a quick look at what we've covered so far:

- ♦ **EWA/Xylem Webinar:** Exploring the **EU Water Resilience Strategy** and its implications for future-proofing Europe's water sector.
- ♦ **EWA/JRC Webinar:** Delving into how water reuse can drive EU competitiveness and sustainability.
- ♦ **The Revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive:** Expert insights and an open Q&A session on the latest regulatory updates.
- ♦ **Water Management in Sponge Cities:** A discussion on balancing quantity and quality in innovative urban water solutions.

Missed any of these? All recordings are available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Stay tuned—more exciting content is on the way!

EWA Events

New Introduction Course to EU Water Policy and Legislation

SIGN UP !



**INTRODUCTION COURSE
TO EU WATER POLICY
AND LEGISLATION**

**LIVE
WEBINAR**

30.09-01.10.2025
10:30 AM - 01:00 PM


Join us !


with **Arthur Guischet**
EWA Secretary General

30.09-01.10.2025

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.

[Learn more](#)

19th EWA Brussels Conference - SAVE THE DATE

Water Resilience and Investment: Navigating Climate Challenges



18.11.2025

Join us in Brussels for the **19th edition of the EWA Brussels Conference, Water Resilience and Investment: Navigating Climate Challenges**, taking place on **18th November**.

High-level speakers and stakeholders will explore key topics under three main sessions: **Investing in Water, UWWTD and Climate Change**, and **R&I the under the Water Resilience Strategy (WRS)**.

In June 2025, the European Commission presented its long-awaited European Water Resilience Strategy, outlining strategic actions to address growing water challenges across the continent — from droughts and pollution to water efficiency and reuse.

As the water sector welcomes this important policy momentum, the focus now shifts to the next big step: **investing in the solutions needed to implement these actions**.

Our conference continues the conversation by turning the spotlight on investment needs and practical solutions that are key to transforming resilience strategies into real-world impact. We are planning to welcome speakers from the EU institution(s), alongside representatives from our EWA member network, to explore how policy, innovation, and financing must align to drive effective climate action and water resilience.

Stay tuned for more details and registration information!

A special thank you to our first confirmed sponsors:

Gold Sponsor



Silver Sponsor



Interested in sponsoring the Brussels Conference? [Contact us](#) to learn more!

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. 2025 European Water Resilience Strategy
2. European bathing water quality in 2024
3. French State liable for death caused by toxic algae
4. Italian Court Ruling Sentences 11 Executives to Jail for PFAS Pollution
5. EUR 250 million available for new projects on security research
6. EIB commits 15 billion euros to protect EU's water resources
7. European Commission Appoints New Director-General for Environment
8. Commission strengthens Europe's chemical industry
9. Upholding the Law
10. Question European Parliament

1. 2025 European Water Resilience Strategy

The European Commission published the 2025 European Water Resilience Strategy and the Recommendation on Water Efficiency First:

The EU Water Resilience Strategy, adopted in June 2025, aims to enhance the EU's ability to manage water-related challenges and ensure a sustainable water supply. The strategy focuses on restoring and protecting the water cycle, building a water-smart economy, and ensuring access to clean and affordable water for all. It also seeks to strengthen the EU's water industry and promote international cooperation on water resilience.

EWA is pleased with the Strategy and will monitor and support its implementation in the coming weeks and years to help make it the success we need to ensure Clean Water for Europe: Quality, Safety, and Sustainability for All.

Read more on the full article:

► [European Water Resilience Strategy](#)

2. European bathing water quality in 2024

The assessment and the interactive map, put together by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in cooperation with the European Commission, highlight where swimmers can find well managed bathing sites in Europe. The assessment inspects water suitability for bathing, focusing on monitoring bacteria which can cause potentially serious illnesses.

Overall, over 22,000 bathing water sites across all 27 EU Member States, plus Albania and Switzerland were assessed. In five countries — Cyprus, Bulgaria, Greece, Austria and Croatia — 95% or more of bathing waters were of excellent quality. Only 1.5% of the EU's bathing waters were found to be of poor quality.

The quality of coastal bathing waters is generally better than that of rivers and lakes. In 2024, around 89% of coastal bathing waters in the EU were classified as excellent, compared with 78% of inland bathing waters.

Full article:

► [European Bathing water quality](#)

3. French State liable for death caused by toxic algae

A French court on Tuesday June 24th ordered the state to compensate the family of a 50-year-old man who died in 2016 during a run after inhaling poisonous gas emitted by rotting green algae piled along the country's western coast.

The Nantes appeals court found France liable for the death of Jean-Rene Auffray, citing its "negligence" in enforcing environmental regulations to protect its waters and prevent toxic green algae blooms.

For more than five decades, tons of green algae have washed up annually on Brittany's beaches in western France, releasing hydrogen sulphide gas as it rots — a toxin that can prove deadly in high concentrations.

The problem of toxic algae bloom stems from the region's farms

Full article:

► [French state liable](#)

4. Italian Court Ruling Sentences 11 Executives to Jail for PFAS Pollution

After four years and 133 hearings, the Court in Vicenza has delivered a historic verdict in one of Europe's most serious environmental crime cases: the intentional contamination of water sources with PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) in the Veneto region. The Miteni plant, which was located in Trissino and is now closed, had been leaching PFAS into the surrounding groundwater, which subsequently ended up in drinking water. This led to over 350,000 citizens from 21 local towns being exposed to the substances.

11 former managers and employees of the chemical company Miteni—including figures connected to multinational giants Mitsubishi and ICI—have been sentenced to a combined 141 years in prison for serious offences including:

- Intentional environmental disaster
- Water poisoning
- Fraudulent bankruptcy

Only one charge, related to unauthorized waste management, was time-barred.

Full article:

► [Italian Court Ruling](#)

5. EUR 250 million available for new projects on security research

A new call for projects under the Civil Security for Society cluster of the Horizon Europe fund is being launched on 12 June 2025. With an estimated budget of nearly EUR 250 million, the call for proposals touches upon topics such as EU external border management, protection of infrastructure, cybersecurity, disaster resilience, the protection of EU citizens against crime and terrorism, as well as strengthened security research and innovation.

Full article:

► [New project on security research](#)

6. EIB commits 15 billion euros to protect EU's water resources

A central pillar of the Water Resilience Strategy is the relaunch of investment, with a key role assigned to the European Investment Bank (EIB). On the 4th of June, the EIB committed to mobilising 15 billion euros over the next three years to reduce pollution, prevent waste, and support innovative businesses in the sector.

Full article:

► [EIB investment](#)

7. European Commission Appoints New Director-General for Environment

The European Commission has decided to appoint Eric Mamer as Director-General for the Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV). This department leads the European Commission's development and delivery of environmental policy that protects, preserves and improves the environment, for present and future generations, while promoting sustainable development. The date of effect of this decision was the 1st of July.

Full article:

► [New Director General for Environment](#)

8. Commission strengthens Europe's chemical industry

The European Commission presented an Action Plan for the Chemicals Industry to strengthen the competitiveness and modernisation of the EU chemical sector. The Action Plan addresses key challenges, namely high energy costs, unfair global competition, and weak demand, while promoting investment in innovation and sustainability. The Action Plan is accompanied by a simplification omnibus on chemicals – the sixth that the Commission has presented in this mandate so far – to further streamline and simplify key EU chemicals legislation, alongside a proposal to strengthen the governance and financial sustainability of the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

Full article:

► [European Commission Action Plan](#)

9. Upholding the Law

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.

In recent weeks, the European Commission initiated a series of infringement procedures concerning various water-related issues. These range from the correct transposition of the Drinking Water Directive to matters related to water permits and the implementation of the Waste Framework Directive. The following countries are involved:

Bulgaria,
Greece,
Spain,
the Netherlands,
Portugal,
Lithuania,
Germany,
Poland,
Slovakia,
Italy,
and Romania.

The Commission is also closing 64 cases where the issues with the Member States concerned have been solved. In these cases, the Commission does not have to pursue the infringement 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.

Full article:

► [Upholding the law](#)

10. Question European Parliament

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 1 June and July 31 2025, 48 water-related questions were tabled, from the Water Resilience Strategy, to water reuse, PFAS and many more.

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.

Full article:

► [EP Questions](#)

Other events

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](#).



13th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition

11–13 November, 2025 - Durres, Albania

On behalf of SHUKALB and SHUKOS, we are pleased to invite you to join us at our 13th Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition. The theme of the 2025 Conference, “Sustainable Water Management in a Changing Climate,” shines a spotlight on one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. The Balkans Joint Conference and Exhibition has firmly established itself as a premier knowledge-



sharing and networking event within the Western Balkans water sector. The Conference provides a dynamic platform for water professionals, policymakers, and industry experts to engage in meaningful discussions, exchange valuable insights, and share their experiences.

Call for abstracts is open until 12 September und Early Bird Conference Registration is open until 30 September.

Learn more about the conference [here](#).

IFAT Saudi Arabia 2026

26 – 28 January 2026 - Riad, Saudi Arabia

IFAT Saudi Arabia, organized by dmg events and licensed by Messe München, in partnership with the National Center for Waste Management (MWAN), is making its eagerly awaited debut in Saudi Arabia from 26 – 28 January. The trade fair will be held at Riyadh Front Exhibition & Conference Center and will bring together the key players in waste, water and environmental technologies. Rapid industrialization, population growth and urban development have made water, waste management and circularity a top priority for the government in Saudi Arabia. The government's vision and proactive measures present great opportunities for solution providers in these sectors and customers, offering both environmental and lucrative economic benefits.



Download the [brochure](#) to learn more or visit 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 October 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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