



NEWSLETTER

Newsletter October 2025

Content of EWA Newsletter Issue 05/2025

► News from EWA

Selected stories of what happened since the last issue

► News from EWA Members

News from our Members

► EWA Events

Learn more about our future events and save the dates!

► News from Brussels

Abstracts with links to download the full length articles

► List of other events

► Until we meet again

News from EWA

New Corporate Member

We are pleased to welcome **VEOLIA** as the newest Corporate Member.



Veolia group aims to be the benchmark company for ecological transformation. Present on five continents with nearly 215,000 employees, the Group designs and deploys useful and concrete solutions for water, waste, and energy management that contribute to radically changing the game. Through its three complementary activities, Veolia helps to develop access to resources, preserve available resources, and renew them.

In 2024, Veolia Group supplied 111 million inhabitants with drinking water and 98 million with sanitation, produced 42 terawatt-hours of energy, and recovered 65 million tons of waste.

Veolia Environnement (Paris Euronext: VIE) generated a consolidated turnover of 44,7 billion euros in 2024.

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

Please join us in welcoming them in the EWA Network.

EWA Secretary General Shares Perspective on EU Water Resilience Plans



We are pleased to share that our Secretary General, Arthur Guischet, was recently interviewed by **ENDS Europe** on the European Commission's newly presented **Water Resilience Strategy**.

The strategy, launched in July by Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera and Environment Commissioner Jessika Roswall, sets out three main objectives:

- **restoring and protecting the water cycle,**
- **building a water-smart economy,**

- and securing clean and affordable water and sanitation for all.

In the interview, Arthur Guischet highlighted the positive aspects of the Commission's plans, including recognition of long-standing EWA priorities such as a holistic approach to water policy and greater visibility for water in EU policymaking. He welcomed the further development of the Water Reuse Regulation, as well as the proposal to create a European “water academy” to address skills and workforce challenges in the sector.

At the same time, he underlined that some open questions remain – particularly regarding pollutants like PFAS, funding mechanisms through the European Investment Bank, and how member states will implement the strategy's non-legislative measures.

Read the full article on the [NEWS section](#) of our website.

EWA at the Interreg Alpine Space MARGIN Meeting in Ljubljana



Another fruitful Interreg **Alpine Space MARGIN** project meeting !

Partners came together in the beautiful city of **Ljubljana** on **September 23–24** to share project updates, exchange experiences, and discuss methods and upcoming activities — all with the shared goal of advancing groundwater sustainability in urban areas.

Our hosts, the City of Ljubljana, also treated us to a visit of the brand-new indoor Olympic pool, powered by geothermal energy which is transformed into heating and cooling energy via heat pumps and exchangers.

We also had the opportunity to learn more about the inspiring [MAURICE](#) Project and exchange valuable insights that could benefit both projects.

EWA was represented by **Carolyn Herten**, Communication Officer, and **Christine Hertwig**, Administration Officer, who took part in the meeting.

A warm thank you to city of Ljubljana for their kind welcome and excellent hosting!

You can learn more about the **MARGIN** project on the [official website](#).



News from EWA Members

Wilo Industry Conference in Venice Highlights AI Innovations for Europe's Water Future



The annual **Wilo Industry Conference 2025** took place in Venice, gathering leading experts from science, politics, and business under the theme **"Water – Shaping the Future."** Organized by the multinational water technology group Wilo in cooperation with the European Water Association (EWA), the event focused on **the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in tackling Europe's growing water challenges and advancing the EU Blue Deal.**

Speakers, including Oliver Hermes, President [&] Global CEO of the Wilo Group, and Pietro Francesco De Lotto from the European Economic and Social Committee, emphasized the urgent need to treat water infrastructure as critical as energy and defense. Discussions highlighted how AI can provide "significant opportunities" to address water shortages and enable a long overdue European water transition.

The conference featured contributions from Wilo management, the European Space Agency, Siemens, and Emerald Technology Ventures, with AI-driven solutions showcased as a central theme. Alongside the conference, Wilo's International Meeting of General Managers also placed a strong emphasis on WATER AI, underlining the company's pioneering role in digital and AI innovations for the water sector.

More details are available in the [official press release](#).

EWA Events

19th EWA Brussels Conference - REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

Water Resilience and Investment: Navigating Climate Challenges

18.11.2025 - VIVAQUA, Brussels



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** at VIVAQUA, Brussels.

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.



PROGRAMME

09:30 - 09:35	Welcome Address	Harsha Ratnaweera , EWA President
SESSION 1 : CLIMATE EMERGENCY		<i>Moderation: Arthur Guischet, Secretary General, EWA</i>
09:35 - 10:05	Keynote: • Water Resilience Strategy & EU Water Academy • Investing in Water	Veronica Manfredi , Director for Zero Pollution, Water Resilience and Green Cities, DG ENVI, European Commission Edouard Perard , Head of Water Division, European Investment Bank
10:05 - 10:45	Roundtable: Water Resilience and Investment: From Strategy to Climate Action	Keynote speakers and Arnaud Valleteau , Chief Executive Officer of Veolia Water Technologies, VEOLIA Elisabeta Poci , EWA Vice-President & Executive Director, Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee Break offered by the Danish Water Forum (DWF)	
11:15 - 12:15	Water & Climate change adaptation and mitigation Impluse + Discussion and Q&A	European Commission - to be confirmed Patrick Willems , Full professor Faculty of Engineering Science and Head of the Hydraulics Subdivision, KU Leuven EWA Member - to be confirmed
12:15 - 13:40	Lunch Break	
SESSION 2 : UWWTD and Climate Change		<i>Moderation: Hilde Niezen, Director Stichting RIONED</i>
13:40 - 14:50	Impulse + discussion/Q&A	Alberto Pistocchio , Directorate-General Joint Research Centre Directorate D – Sustainable Resources, Unit JRC.D.2, Ocean and Water Alexis de Kerchove , Senior Director of Client Sustainability, Xylem Prof. Dr.-Ing. Ulrich Dittmer , University of Kaiserslautern – Landau (RPTU) Claudia Topalli , Head of EU Affairs and Government Relations, IDEXX
14:50 - 15:20	Coffee Break offered by the Danish Water Forum (DWF)	
SESSION 3 : EU Water Resilience R&I Strategy		<i>Moderation: Jesper Goodley Dannisee, Secretary General, Danish Water Forum</i>
15:20 - 16:30	Impulse + discussion/Q&A	James Morisson , Director, Directorate B, Healthy Planet, DG RTD, European Commission Prof. Dr. Thomas Wintgens , Professor at RWTH Aachen and EWA ETSC Chair Yvan Trealt , Commercial Coordination Director, Suez Engineering & Construction
16:30 - 16:45	Conclusion and Invitation to network over drinks	Harsha Ratnaweera , EWA President

Registration is now open ! You can also find the detailed program on our website.

> REGISTER NOW



Gold Sponsor of the Conference:



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 Water Academy: "A Dozen Drops of Impact: Flow Forward on the Journey to EUWA" Survey.
2. EU Reaches Agreement on Water Pollution Standards
3. EU Endorses Conditional Use of RENURE Fertilizers under the Nitrate Directive
4. ECHA publishes updated PFAS restriction proposal
5. ECHA announces timeline for PFAS restriction evaluation
6. Wetland restoration can reduce nitrogen pollution and improve water quality in major European rivers
7. State of the Union 2025
8. European Parliament Questions

1. European Water Academy: "A Dozen Drops of Impact: Flow Forward on the Journey to EUWA" Survey.



This initiative aims to gather valuable insights and expressions of interest from key water-related actors across Europe. Your input will play a crucial role in shaping the development and implementation of the European Water Academy (EUWA), a pioneering effort to enhance capacity building and knowledge exchange in the water sector.

Deadline for Submission: October 31st: [reply to the survey](#).

Read more on the full article:

► [European Water Academy Survey](#)

2. EU Reaches Agreement on Water Pollution Standards

The European Parliament and Council have reached a provisional agreement to update the EU's water legislation, marking a significant step toward cleaner groundwater and surface waters. The revised directive expands the list of priority pollutants to include PFAS, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, and industrial substances like bisphenol-A, while introducing watch lists for emerging contaminants such as microplastics and antimicrobial resistance indicators.

Full article:

► [Water Pollution Standards](#)

3. EU Endorses Conditional Use of RENURE Fertilizers under the Nitrate Directive

The European Commission has welcomed a provisional agreement by the Nitrates Committee allowing the conditional use of RENURE (Recovered Nitrogen from Manure) fertilizers in nitrate-vulnerable zones. This decision aims to support sustainable farming practices while maintaining environmental safeguards under the Nitrates Directive.

Full article:

► [RENURE Fertilizers](#)

4. ECHA publishes updated PFAS restriction proposal

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) has published the updated proposal to restrict per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the EU's chemicals regulation, REACH. The update has been prepared by the authorities from Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden, who submitted the initial proposal in January 2023.

Full article:

► [PFAS restriction proposal](#)

5. ECHA announces timeline for PFAS restriction evaluation

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) aims to complete its scientific evaluation of the proposed EU-wide restriction on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) by the end of 2026.

Article:

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) aims to complete its scientific evaluation of the proposed EU-wide restriction on per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) by the end of 2026.

This notice explains when the EU expects to finish reviewing a broad PFAS ban (target 2026) and which uses are in scope now. It matters for water services because future rules could limit PFAS in materials and products, shaping utility compliance plans and costs.

[Link.](#)

Full article:

► [PFAS Restriction proposal](#)

6. Wetland restoration can reduce nitrogen pollution and improve water quality in major European rivers

Without the filtering performed by Europe's wetlands, the nitrogen pollution that rivers carry into the seas would be 25% higher. Restoring some of the historical wetlands would further cut nitrogen pollution with low impact on agriculture.

Full article:

► [Wetland restoration](#)

7. State of the Union 2025

In her State of the Union speech on 10 September 2025, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen shared the key priorities and flagship projects for the year to come, building on the progress the EU has made in recent years.

Full article:

► [State of the Union](#)

8. European Parliament Questions

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 August and September 30, 2025, 30 water-related questions were tabled, from Water scarcity to sanitation access and many more.

Full article:

► [European Parliament Questions](#)

Other events

Montenegro Water Conference 09 -11 October 2025 - Budva, Montenegro

The Conference will address current topics related to water and wastewater in Montenegro, the region and beyond. The topics will be discussed by local and international experts who will contribute to a quality exchange of experiences and best practices in water and wastewater sector.

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



D-CLEAN Webinar 22 October 2025 - Online

On behalf of the Voice of the Danube Team, we would like to invite you to the D-CLEAN Webinar. This project supports small settlements in the Danube River Basin in improving wastewater and stormwater management through knowledge exchange, capacity building, and the implementation of nature-based solutions.

The Webinar will present the results of the regional baseline analysis and share key insights, including:

1. An overview of existing infrastructure, technologies, and practices
2. Identification of strengths and weaknesses in current systems
3. A review of national policies and management plans

Further information about the project and the webinar is available on the [event page](#) as well as in the [webinar Agenda](#).



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.



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 December 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](#).

Legal Notice

European Water Association

Theodor-Heuss-Allee 17, 53773 Hennef
Germany

Tel.: +49 2242 872-189
www.ewa-online.eu

Contact

Tel.: +49 2242 872-189
email: info@ewa-online.eu

Pictures used in courtesy of: Shutterstock - CK Foto;
EWA; Martin Srb

Unsubscribe from the newsletter

If you no longer wish to receive emails from us in the future, simply send a message to herten@ewa-online.eu

[Legal Notice](#) | [Privacy Statement](#) | [Contact](#) | [Become a Member](#)

© Copyright 2025 · EWA