



Newsletter February 2026

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News from EWA

New Corporate Member



We are pleased to welcome **UAB EVT** as a new Corporate Member.

UAB EVT vandens paruošimo specialistai, established in 2013, operates across Lithuania, specializing in water treatment solutions such as water softener installation and iron removal for domestic and commercial properties, while also providing comprehensive servicing for all its products

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

New Corporate Member



We are pleased to welcome **Eurofin** as a new Corporate Member.

Eurofins Umwelt Germany is part of the international Eurofins network. With over 30 years of experience, more than 200,000 analytical methods, and around 950 laboratories worldwide, we are among the leading providers of environmental analytics – locally rooted, globally connected.

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

Please join us in welcoming UAB EVT and Eurofin in the EWA Network.

Catch Up on Our Latest Webinars



Did you know that recordings of our recent webinars are available on the **EWA Online YouTube channel**?

If you missed our first two webinars of the year, you can catch up anytime:

- **EWA/MARGIN Webinar:** Groundwater Challenges in Urban Areas
- **EWA/IFAT Webinar:** Harnessing AI for Water: Lessons Learned and Future Horizons

The recordings are available for you to watch [here](#). If you know others who might be interested, don't hesitate to pass the link along.

IFAT Munich 2026 - Secure your FREE Ticket!



Secure a **FREE** ticket to IFAT Munich 2026
Use the code **EWA_2026**



You can already secure your tickets for **IFAT Munich 2026**, taking place from **May 4-7!**

Each ticket includes **free public transportation** in Munich, so be sure to take advantage of it. The code below is open to everyone—feel free to share it widely within your network.

The EWA Booth will be waiting for you at the entrance of Hall West—we can't wait to welcome you there!

Use the code "**EWA_2026**" to redeem your day ticket in the [IFAT Ticket Shop](#).

You can book as many tickets as you need—whether you plan to attend for one day or all four, simply use the code each time you book a daily ticket.

EWA Overview Activities at IFAT Munich

We're thrilled to finally unveil our schedule for the week!

Our booth will be open from **Monday to Thursday**, and we've lined up a series of exciting events for you.

Mark your calendar—we can't wait to welcome you and spend this time together!



EWA OVERVIEW ACTIVITIES IFAT 2026

04-07 May 2027



Tuesday 05.05

09:30 - 10:20:

22nd EWA Symposium:

Session 1

Blue Stage

10:30 - 11:20:

High Level Dialogue of the
Water Sector

Blue Stage

14:30 - 15:20:

Desalination in Europe:
Innovation, Integration, and
Sustainability

Blue Stage

15:30 - 17:00:

22nd EWA Symposium:

Session 2

Room B13 - Hall West

Wednesday 06.05

10:30 - 12:00:

22nd EWA Symposium:

Session 3

Room B12 - Hall West

16:30 - 17:20:

From Scarcity to Solutions:
The Future of Water Reuse
in Europe

Blue Stage

Thursday 07.05

10:30 - 11:30:

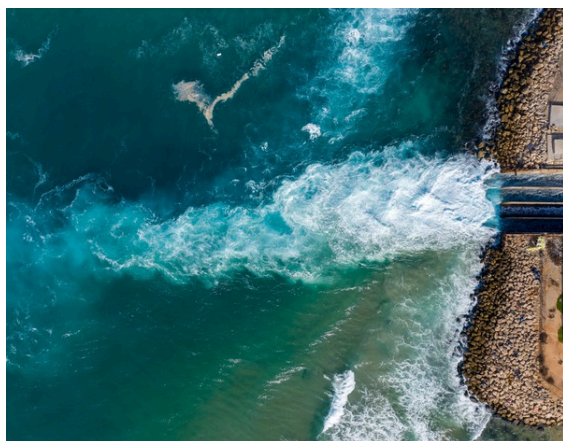
Harnessing AI for Water: Lessons
Learned and Future Horizons &
way forward

Room B13 - Hall West

EWA Events

EWA/IFAT Webinar: The Future of Water: Desalination in a Changing Europe

19.02.2026 11:00AM - 12:00PM



On 19.02.2026, we invite you to join our webinar, **The Future of Water: Desalination in a Changing Europe**, organized in cooperation with IFAT Munich.

This webinar will present the increasing role of desalination in Europe. As climate change and water scarcity reshape priorities, desalination is gaining traction—not just in coastal regions, but as part of integrated water resource management across the continent.

This session will provide an overview of the situation in Europe with a focus on desalination activities in Cyprus, a focus from a global player Veolia and their approach to desalination in Europe.

It will be an opportunity to exchange with experienced actors in this field, learn from their experiences, and discuss upcoming challenges as well as opportunities.

REGISTER HERE



Organized in cooperation with



IFAT Munich is the most important industry meeting point and the heart of the largest international platform for environmental technologies.

In May 2026, over 3,000 exhibitors from more than 60 countries will present their strategies and innovations. Discover pioneering solutions for water, recycling, and circularity. The next edition will take place from **May 4th to May 7th**.

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. The cost of PFAS pollution for our society
2. PFAS Level monitoring in Drinking Water
3. ECHA Industry Portal
4. European Court of Justice: Poland v Commission
5. Research Reveals Rhine River Transports Far More Macro Litter Than Expected
6. EU Court of Justice Condemns Spain Over Urban Wastewater Failures
7. Aqua Publica Europea's position paper on the revision of Public Procurement Directives
8. CJEU: Member States May Require Identification for Environmental Information Requests
9. European Parliament, water-related Parliamentary questions
10. Upholding the law

1. The cost of PFAS pollution for our society

An EU commissioned study estimates that the cumulative societal cost of PFAS pollution in Europe could reach €330 billion to €1.7 trillion by 2050 without stronger controls, with emissions nearly tripling from 2020 levels, 11,500–14,200 contaminated sites, and roughly one in six Europeans (≈76.5 million) facing high exposure.

The findings bolster calls for upstream restrictions, aligning with the Commission's message that tackling PFAS at the source is economically prudent—end of pipe treatment of polluted water alone would exceed €1 trillion, and early action could avoid tens of billions in future costs.

Full article:

► [The cost of PFAS](#)

2. PFAS Level monitoring in Drinking Water

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has chosen the winning consortium that will lead EIT Water, the new Knowledge and Innovation Community in the Water, Marine and Maritime sectors and ecosystems. This marks a major step towards securing the continent's water future, and to deliver innovations that can respond to environmental, economic and social pressures of Europe's water systems.

Full article:

► [PFAS Level Monitoring](#)

3. ECHA Industry Portal

On January 5, 2026, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) launched a unified submission platform for the "Positive List for Materials in Contact with Drinking Water." Enterprises can now log into the ECHA Industry Portal to submit information on substances they intend to retain, add, or remove with a single click. All notices must be prepared in IUCLID format as required by the Drinking Water Directive.

Full article:

► [ECHA Industry Portal](#)

4. European Court of Justice: Poland v Commission

The Court of Justice dismissed Poland's appeal and confirmed that the Czech Polish settlement on the Turów mine did not retroactively cancel the €500,000 per day penalties accrued for non compliance with interim measures up to 3 February 2022, around €68.5 million of which the Commission recovered by set off.

These periodic penalties aim to ensure compliance with interim orders and preserve the effectiveness of EU law in the general interest and therefore cannot be nullified by a later agreement between the parties.

Full article:

► [European Court of Justice](#)

5. Research Reveals Rhine River Transports Far More Macro Litter Than Expected

Continuous in river monitoring with a floating litter trap near Cologne shows the Rhine carries ~3,010–4,707 tonnes of macrolitter to the North Sea each year—far above previous estimates—with plastics comprising about 70% of items (but ~15% of mass) and private consumers identified as the largest source.

Litter loads spike during rising discharge, indicating that river flow forecasts can help target clean ups and inform basin wide policy measures.

Full article:

► [Rhine Carries Far More Trash](#)

6. EU Court of Justice Condemns Spain Over Urban Wastewater Failures

On 18 December 2025, the Court of Justice of the EU ruled that Spain repeatedly breached the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, citing serious deficiencies in wastewater collection, treatment, and monitoring across roughly 50 agglomerations, notably in Andalusia and the Canary Islands.

The judgment highlights missing secondary treatment in at least 34 agglomerations and the failure to apply more stringent treatment in 19 discharging to sensitive areas, urging authorities to accelerate nationwide compliance

Full article:

► [EU Court of Justice](#)

7. Aqua Publica Europea's position paper on the revision of Public Procurement Directives

Following the European Commission's call for evidence on the Public Procurement Directives, Aqua Publica Europea presents key recommendations to enhance investment efficiency and support EU strategic objectives, while safeguarding its essential public mission.

Full article:

► [Position Paper](#)

8. CJEU: Member States May Require Identification for Environmental Information Requests

In C 129/24, Coillte, the Court held that although Directive 2003/4/EC does not itself require applicants to disclose their real name or a current physical address when requesting environmental information, it does not preclude Member States from imposing such identification through national law as part of practical arrangements.

Full article:

► [CJEU Permits ID Checks for Eco-Requests](#)

9. European Parliament, water-related Parliamentary Questions

Members of the European Parliament show a regular interest in water issues in their Parliamentary questions. In the period between November 28th, 2025, and January 29th, 2026, 18 water-related questions were tabled, from Water scarcity to Nitrate derogation and many more.

Full article:

► [European Parliament Questions](#)

10. 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:

Belgium,
Bulgaria,
Croatia,
Cyprus,
Finland,
Germany,
Ireland,
Italy,
Portugal,
Romania,
And Slovenia,

The Commission is also closing 84 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](#)

Other events

Applicant City Workshop for the European Green Capital and Green Leaf Awards 2028

12 February - Online Webinar

Applications for the 2028 European Green Capital and European Green Leaf Awards are now officially open! Are you thinking of applying for the 2028 EUGreenCapital or EUGreenLeaf awards? 🌱

Join the Applicant City Workshop on 12 February to hear first-hand success stories from:

🏆 Heilbronn (2027 hashtag#EUGreenCapital)

🌿 Assen (2027 hashtag#EUGreenLeaf).

They'll share their winning strategies, top tips, and secrets that made their applications stand out.

Whether you're just exploring or putting the final touches on your application, this workshop will give you the insights and tools you need.

[Register here.](#)



Webinar on Safeguarding groundwater & soil in the face of climate change

24 February - Online Webinar

Organised by Climate Alliance and the Soil Alliance, the event aims to facilitate knowledge exchange and increase awareness across relevant target groups and serves as a platform for learning, dialogue, and inspiration for cities at any stage of climate adaptation.

We invite experts and practitioners to contribute as speakers and share insights, best practices, and innovative approaches that support resilient and sustainable urban development across Europe.

The event is part of the MARGIN project. 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.

you can register [here](#).

IE expo China

13 - 15 April - 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.

Key Facts from IE expo China 2025:

Exhibitors: 2,279 from 22 countries

Visitors: 90,571 from 72 countries

Exhibition space: 187,000 m²

Website: [IE expo China](#)



IFAT Delhi

22 - 24 April - Delhi, India

India's rapid growth across industries and infrastructure sectors have also put the spotlight on the environment impact of this growth. Against this backdrop, IFAT Delhi is set to debut in the nation's capital from April 22–24, 2026, at Bharat Mandapam, marking a new chapter in India's sustainability movement.

Website: [IFAT Delhi](#)



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](#).



IE expo Chengdu

10 - 12 June - Chengdu

Since 2019 Messe München has been represented with another IFAT event in China. As solution platform for the western region of China, IE expo Chengdu is held at the Western China International Expo City in the 15-million city of Chengdu.

Key Facts from IE expo Chengdu 2025:

Exhibitors: 350

Visitors: 25,000

Exhibition space: 30,000 m²

Website: [IE expo Chengdu](#)



Novatech 2026

29 June - 3 July - Lyon, France

For over 30 years, the Novatech conference has established itself as an international benchmark in the promotion of strategies and solutions for integrated and sustainable urban water management and planning. For five days in Lyon, Graie, in partnership with the Metropole of Lyon and OTHU, brings together French and international scientists, decision-makers, facilitators, managers and designers, to exchange and share their experiences and develop a common culture of urban water management.

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



Until we meet again...

The next EWA Newsletter will be sent out April 2026.



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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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

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