

Commissioner Karmenu Vella for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries  
European Commission  
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Brussels, 30 January 2015

**Subject: Main priorities for water under the Juncker Commission 2014-2019**

Dear Commissioner Vella,

On behalf of key members of the EU Water Alliance, we congratulate you on your new post as Commissioner. A strong water services sector is a critical economic and social driver for implementing *a new agenda for Jobs, Growth, Fairness and Democratic Change*. Developing a strong Circular economy package and broader environmental objectives is the foundation for sustainable management of Europe's water resources.

Further to the key messages of the Juncker's Commission, presented in the Annex to this letter we would like to discuss with you the **importance of water within the context of the new EC agenda** by sharing our ideas on cross-cutting water themes amongst the priorities for action, thereby ensuring better cooperation.

All players in the water sector are heavily engaged in policies concerning the environment, either because they develop technologies and strategies to limit the use of water or water pollution or by developing new technologies to address extreme water-related events, in rural and urban areas such as floods and droughts.

Global water related challenges are increasing. With the work of the European Commission to develop sound legislation over the past decades, one can see that the European environment and water policies drives improved water governance around the world. The implementation of these policies has played a pivotal role in improving the safety, resilience and sustainability of society as well as increasing European growth and global competitiveness.

Means to improve of the coordination of existing environmental legislation are ongoing, such as EC's December 2014 workshop on the implementation of WFD-MSFD-Nature policies. The developments towards circular economy, too, will impact Europe's sustainability and increase competitiveness and growth.



Additionally, water-energy-food-biodiversity nexus is amongst the most important emerging issues which get varying attention by different actors. It is expected that the bottlenecks in balancing water over the nexus will become more severe due to changing climate. On one hand we see increasing evidence in recent years of the effect of water shortages, but also promising new technologies to address water related challenges . Despite these positive developments, water is often taken for granted and we advocate a more strategic uptake of the nexus discussion cross-cutting the Commission and under your leadership within the Climate Action and Energy priority.

We are looking forward to scheduling a meeting to discuss these items at your earliest convenience. The contact point for further communication is Durk Krol, WssTP Managing director, [durk.krol@wsstp.eu](mailto:durk.krol@wsstp.eu), tel.+32-473805042. We thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Members of EU Water Alliance: Acqueau, EurAqua, European Water Association (EWA), European Water Partnership (EWP), NetworcH<sub>2</sub>O, WssTP.

**Enclosure: EU Water Alliance: Main priorities for water under the Juncker Commission (2014-2019)**

