

Commissioner Neven Mimica for International Cooperation & Development
European Commission
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Brussels, 30 January 2015

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

Dear Commissioner Mimica,

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*, within and outside Europe. Promoting the activities of water-related sectors outside the EU by stimulating our know-how, technologies and smart management solutions on the global market will ensure European competitiveness world-wide.

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.

It is impossible to overstate the importance of the position to which you have recently been appointed referring to the water sector which our organizations represent. Water is the global issue of the XXI Century. Electricity is power, gas is heat, but water is life. Furthermore, water is the key element of international development policy and we look forward to your administration defending the importance of our most vital and yet most precarious natural resource during the course of the negotiations regarding the new UN Sustainable Development Goals.

When one discusses access to water, one is referring to a basic human right with a dramatic social, economic and political impact on society. There has been progress, but 800 million people remain without access to a reliable source of drinking water is proof enough of the enormous task which faces all those involved in water management. The effective governance of trans-frontier water resources represents a key challenge to sustainable water management as well as the reduction of international conflicts and water-related migrations. We are aware of EU efforts in the field of water diplomacy but at the same time we are conscious of the need for these endeavors to be strengthened and intensified.



The European Commission has identified water as an important area of intervention for the EU development policy. The energy-food nexus is an essential element in the Agenda for Change, The relationship between water, energy and agriculture are irrefutable. Therefore we would advocate EC intervention and support of international knowledge, innovation and managerial exchange and transfer enabling the implementation of actions in beneficiary countries in order to guarantee the fulfilment of EC objectives.

In cooperation with existing international platforms including the UN Habitat-led Global Water Operators Partnership (GWOPA) or other UN Conventions., the European Commission has the capability to ensure that adequate water capacity-building policies and projects such as the ACP-EU Water Facility are implemented by providing the necessary financial support.

We are eager to contribute to this, one of the most urgent of all debates and are, as a result looking forward to having the opportunity to initiate an open, positive dialogue concerning this subject and we are prepared to support and collaborate with your administration in whatever capacity you may feel to be pertinent.

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, 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), Networch₂O, WssTP.

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

