

Commissioner Violeta Bulc for Transport  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels – Belgium  
[Violeta.Bulc@ec.europa.eu](mailto:Violeta.Bulc@ec.europa.eu)

Brussels, 30 January 2015

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

Dear Commissioner Bulc,

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*. 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.

Transport in general will be essential for Europe's recovery. Only infrastructure ahead of economic developments will facilitate recovery and leverage the expected innovations leading to a European Industrial Renaissance and economic growth. As you are well aware, inland waterborne transport (IWT) is considered to be an energy efficient, safe, and sustainable mode of transport. Water-borne transport plays a relatively small, but important part in transport networks, particularly for European industrial activities. It complements the trans-European networks for long distance, but also supports decongestion in urban environments.

The water-energy-food-biodiversity nexus is amongst the most important emerging issues which get varying attention by different sectors. It is expected that the bottlenecks in balancing water over the nexus will become more severe due to changing climate. This will also touch effect inland surface water transport. Both in times of water shortage and floods transport will be affected. Navigation in times of low water levels is dependent on water abstractions for other sectors, mainly the energy and agricultural/food sector. European policy developments in the energy package and policy concerning green infrastructure will be dependent on a holistic transport perspective, too.

Infrastructural transport assets such as waterways, harbors and ports will require adaptation to changing environments and climate, taking into account the established requirements of environmental and sustainability policies. Investments will support growth and jobs, and transport infrastructure will lay the foundation for recovery.



It is evident that inland water-borne transport is a relatively small item in your portfolio. Still, we are eager to contribute to inland water borne transport policy in the light of the European Commission's priorities on Jobs, Growth and Investment and Energy Union and Climate. As representatives of the European water organizations, further to the developed key messages of the EU Water Alliance to the Juncker's Commission, presented in the background to this letter, we are kindly requesting a meeting with you to initiate an open, positive dialogue.

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)**

