

Newsletter August 2020

Content of this EWA Newsletter

Here below you can get information and be updated about:

► **News from EWA:**

Selected stories of what has happened since the last issue, including a presentation of the EWA web-seminar on Water Reuse in September and the new online series on WorldSkills

► See a video presentation of a member of EWA: Wendy Francken from Belgium.

► **News from Brussels:**

Abstracts with links to download of the full length articles + information about the EWA online course in EU Policy and Legislation

► **List of EWA events** with new online offers.

► List of other events

► Until we meet again ..

News from EWA

Water Reuse

If you are interested in Water Reuse and the new EU regulation, perhaps this EWA web-seminar is for you:

► Wednesday 16 September at 16:00 CET: Water Reuse - [flyer](#)

Speakers:

- Prof. Dr. Jiri Wanner, University of Chemistry and Technology Prague, CZ: 'New EU regulation on Water Reuse'
- Prof. Dr. Jens Haberkamp, Münster University of Applied Sciences, DE: 'An Overview of Technologies for Water Reuse'
- Prof. José Matos, IST-University of Lisbon, PT: 'Water Reuse at a City scale -The case of Lisbon City, Portugal'
- Eileen O'Neill, Ph.D., BCES, Water Principles LLC, US: 'The Role of Public and Community Engagement in US Water Reuse Programs: Lessons Learned and Future Studies'
- Dr. Josef Lahnsteiner, Ph.D., VA TECH WABAG Group and Chair IWA Water Reuse Specialist Group, AT: 'The Status of Water Reuse from an International Perspective'

The web-seminar will be moderated by Prof. Dr. Jiri Wanner (on the photo), who earlier this year was awarded Honorary Member of EWA.

► Information and registration to the web-seminar on Water Reuse [here](#)



WorldSkills: Are you ready to compete?



Are you, your members and your country ready to compete?

► 46th WorldSkills Competition, 22-27 September 2021 in Shanghai, China

The Registration is open and there is still room for minimum 9 European countries to join the skill no. 55: Water Technology.

► 47th WorldSkills Competition, 12-17 September 2023 in Lyon, France

In September 2023 Worldskills will be hosted in Lyon, France, and we expect many European young teams to participate. Are your team one of

them? The preparations start now.

EWA launches series of online activities in support of WorldSkills #55: 'Water Technology'

The European Water Association (EWA) supports WorldSkills to inspire and support 100 million young people to get ahead with skills by 2030. To help share the knowledge of WorldSkills and help interested European countries and other interested partners prepare for the upcoming WorldSkills events, EWA now launches a series of online activities for support.



► Overview of EWA online series on WorldSkills [here](#)

If you are curious to know more about WorldSkills and competition in skill#55 'Water Technology', take a look at this [video](#).

In the video (start at 0:18 sec.) Rodrigo Augusto Franco de Oliveira Zawadzki, who is Skill #55 Manager from Brazil, introduces the development of the skill in Water Technology and reports from the WorldSkills competition in Kazan, Russia, 2019.

You have the chance of meeting both Rodrigo Augusto Franco de Oliveira Zawadzki and his interviewer in the video, Rüdiger Heidebrecht, who is Head of the Training Department at the German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste (DWA), when EWA opens the first of a series of 12 web-seminars about the WorldSkills with:

A1: 'Worldskills Basics for Beginners' 9 September 2020 at 12:00.

► [Online flyer](#)

► Information and registration [here](#)

► Find all the dates and information about registration on the [EWA website](#)

Presentation of a member of EWA

EWA MC member: Wendy Francken

In this [video](#) (duration 2:58 min.) you have the chance to meet Wendy Francken from Vlarlo in Belgium.

To hear what Wendy Francken says, please remember to switch the volume on your device on.

Wendy Francken is elected member of the EWA Management Committee (MC) and Chair of the EWA European Policy Committee (EPC).

In the video, Wendy Francken explains, why a knowledge hub like Vlarlo finds it important to join a knowledge sharing organisation like EWA, and be an active part in raising awareness about and discussing EU water policy with the EU commission as well as with other EWA members in the EPC.

You find the contact information of Wendy Francken at the end of the video.



News from Brussels

EU Policy and Legislation

EWA Online Course

EWA hosts an online course in EU Policy and Legislation with EWA EU Consultant and former Head of the Water Sector at the EU Commission, Helmut Blöch, 6th and 7th of October 2020. The number of participants is restricted for optimal outcome, and each participant, who attends the whole course (2 sessions) will receive a certificate afterwards.

► [More information](#)

► [Online flyer](#)



Articles for News from Brussels

The articles for the News from Brussels here below cover the following topics:

0. EU Environment Commissioner confirms: Water Framework Directive remains unchanged
1. EU Water Reuse Regulation in force since 26 June 2020
2. Marine Strategy Framework Directive: Report on the first implementation cycle, June 2020
3. Emission Control Areas for Emissions from Shipping, as of June 2020
4. Biodiversity on farmland continues to decline despite specific CAP Measures
5. Holiday on a cruise liner
6. Guidance Documents under the Water Framework Directive, updated list
7. Waste water from ships in the Baltic Sea: handling of waste water in ports and at sea
8. Upholding the law: overview on current infringement procedures
9. Albania and North Macedonia: Draft negotiating frameworks for EU accession negotiations ready
10. Common Agricultural Policy: Current legislative framework extended until the end of 2022
11. Pharmaceutical Strategy to be elaborated until end of 2020
12. 1. European Parliament questions + 2. European Parliament opposing extension of approval periods of pesticides active substances

0) Water Framework Directive remains unchanged

EU Environment Commissioner confirms: Water Framework Directive remains unchanged

Following the Fitness Check of the Water Framework Directive published in December 2019 (see EWA News 1/2020), EU Environment Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius underlined in a statement to POLITICO in June 2020 that the Water Framework Directive will not be changed.

He confirmed the need to focus on supporting implementation and enforcement “without changing the directive”.

Read the full article:

➔ [Water Framework Directive remains unchanged](#)

1) EU Water Reuse Regulation in force since 26 June 2020

Following political negotiation and adoption by European Parliament and Council (cf earlier editions of EWA News), the Regulation has been published in the Official Journal on 5 June 2020.

Consequently, it has entered into force on 26 June 2020 and will apply from 26 June 2023. The Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

EWA News provides you the link to the official text now in force, in all EU languages.

Read the full article:

➔ [EU Water Reuse Regulation in force since 26 June 2020](#)

➤ EWA web-seminar on Water Reuse - [information](#)

2) Marine Strategy Framework Directive

Report on the first implementation cycle, June 2020

The Commission published in June 2020 a report on the first implementation cycle of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive. This report, required by Article 20 of the Directive, shows that while the EU's framework for marine environmental protection is one of the most comprehensive and ambitious worldwide, it needs to be beefed up to be able to tackle predominant pressures such as overfishing and unsustainable fishing practices, plastic litter, excess nutrients, underwater noise and others types of pollution.

EWA News provides you the key findings of the report as well as links to the full text of the Commission report and its annexes, and to the European Environment Agency 2019 report "Nutrient enrichment and eutrophication in Europe's seas".

Read the full text:

➔ [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#)

3) Emission Control Areas for Emissions from Shipping

June 2020

Emissions from shipping have, depending on the regional circumstances, a major impact on water quality of our regional seas. EWA News 3/2016 presented an overview on Emission Control Areas established

under International Law (International Maritime Organization / IMO, MARPOL Convention), outlining progress in combating emissions from shipping as of September 2016.

In the meantime, efforts for reducing ship emissions have gained further momentum, with emission control areas operational in East Asia (Korea and China, under national legislation covering territorial waters), and plans for a Mediterranean emission control area further operationalised by a road map (envisaged as legislation under International Law / IMO, covering all waters of the Mediterranean) .

Read the full article:

➔ [Emission Control Areas for Emissions from Shipping](#)

4) Biodiversity on farmland continues to decline despite specific CAP Measures

June 2020 Special Report by the European Court of Auditors

The common agricultural policy (CAP) was not effective in reversing the decades-long decline in biodiversity and intensive farming remains a main cause of biodiversity loss, according to a new report by the European Court of Auditors (ECA). The auditors found gaps in the EU 2020 biodiversity strategy and its coordination with the CAP. Moreover, the Commission's tracking of CAP spending on biodiversity is unreliable and most CAP funding has little positive impact on it. Some CAP schemes have greater potential to improve biodiversity, but the Commission and Member States favoured low-impact options. Finally, the report found that the Commission in preparing its legislative proposals (in 2011) did not deliver on its own political commitments in its Communication (in 2010).

Read the full article:

➔ [Biodiversity on farmland continues to decline despite specific CAP Measures](#)

5) After Corona, would you consider a cruise line holiday ?

Consider the environmental impacts: cruise liners continue polluting the environment

During the Corona crisis, the cruising industry ground to a complete halt. Now rather conflicting signals emerge:

On the one hand, US authorities have in July 2020 extended the ban on any cruising activities of all vessels with a capacity of ≥ 250 and operating in waters subject to US jurisdiction.

On the other hand, several operators for cruises in Europe are actively contemplating resumption of cruising activities, though without shore excursions.

However, the Corona crisis and its economic implications should not distract from continuing to highlight the environmental pollution side of most of the cruising industry:

According to a report by German NGO NABU (Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union / Naturschutzbund Deutschland) "Cruise Ship Ranking 2019", cruise liners continue to be a major source of environmental pollution.

The findings of the evaluation demonstrate that only a small proportion of fleets is becoming cleaner, while the industry by large continues to rely on heavy fuels and fails to employ exhaust technology.

EWA News provides you a complete listing of all cruise ships operating on the European market, and their environmental footprint.

Read the full article:

➔ [Holiday on a cruise liner](#)

6) Guidance Documents under the Water Framework Directive

Updated List

Implementation of the Water Framework Directive raises a number of shared technical challenges for the Member States, the Commission, the Candidate and EEA Countries as well as stakeholders and NGOs. In addition, many of the European river basins are international, crossing administrative and political borders. Therefore a common understanding and approach is crucial to successful and effective implementation of the Directive.

In order to address the challenges in a co-operative and coordinated way, Member States, Norway and the Commission have agreed on a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive only five months after the entry into force of the Directive.

One key result of this joint work are guidance documents and technical reports to assist stakeholders to implement the WFD. Guidance Documents are intended to provide an overall methodological approach, but these will need to be tailored to specific circumstances of each country and region.

EWA News provides you the full updated list of Guidance Documents and other thematic documents, as well as links to the full versions of these documents.

Read the full article:

➔ [Guidance Documents under the Water Framework Directive](#)

7) Waste water from ships in the Baltic Sea: Handling of waste water in ports and at sea

EU law and International Law mutually reinforcing each other

Due to human impacts from land-based and sea-based sources, but also due to its specific hydrology (slow and limited water exchange with the North Sea through the Danish Straits), the Baltic Sea is one of the most endangered regional seas in Europe.

This is particularly true for eutrophication, as demonstrated by the very high level of chlorophyll-a across all the parts of the Baltic Sea:

Map source: European Commission (European Atlas of the Seas)

The Baltic Sea is one of the busiest shipping routes of the world. Cargo, tanker, passenger and container ships are the most common ship types accounting for 80% of the traffic of International Maritime Organization (IMO) vessels in the Baltic Sea. Around 6% of these vessels are passenger ships. Although the proportion of discharges from ships is small, when compared to other sources, wastewater discharges from ships contribute to marine pollution in the Baltic Sea in general and especially to the release of nutrients. Due to limited water exchange with adjacent seas, these nutrients have accumulated over a long time period, leading to the Baltic's current eutrophication and oxygen deficiency issues. Due to these characteristics and based on a joint request by the Baltic Sea countries assembled in HELCOM have successfully approached the IMO to declare the Baltic Sea a "Special Area" under the MARPOL Convention's Annex IV.

In parallel, the EU has taken steps with its area of responsibility (ports and territorial waters) to strengthen the environmental legislation framework, so that both European and International Law provision mutually reinforce each other. Whereas the EU Port Reception Facilities Directive focuses on operations in port, MARPOL mostly focuses on operations at sea. In this way, the EU Directive both aligns with and complements MARPOL, by regulating the legal, practical and financial responsibilities at the shore-sea interface. Although MARPOL provides a comprehensive framework addressing ship-source pollution from different polluting substances, it does not provide for an effective enforcement mechanism. Therefore, incorporating the main concepts and obligations of MARPOL into EU law means that they can be enforced effectively through the EU legal system.

Read the full article:

➔ [Waste water from ships in the Baltic Sea](#)

8) Upholding the law

Overview on Current Infringement Procedures

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.

Past weeks have seen a range of such legal enforcement actions by the Commission for non-compliance with EU water-related legislation, in particular

- Nature protection legislation (Habitats and Birds Directives),
- Marine Strategy Framework Directive,
- Ship Recycling Regulation,
- Ports Services Regulation,
- Industrial Emissions Directive,
- Nitrates Directive,
- Environmental Impact Assessment Directive,
- Environmental Liability Directive, and
- Seveso III Directive (prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances).

This issue presents general information on the legal background (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union) and the legal procedure, the related individual cases concerning the following countries:

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Ireland
- Italy
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom

Read the full article:

➔ [Upholding the law](#)

9) Albania and North Macedonia

Draft negotiating frameworks for EU accession negotiations ready

Following the Council's unanimous decision on 25 March 2020 to commence accession negotiations with the two countries (cf. EWA News 2/2020), the negotiating frameworks have now been drafted by the Commission and submitted to the Council.

EWA News provides you key elements of the negotiating frameworks and links to background documents (EU accession process in a nutshell; Facts overviews "Albania" and "North Macedonia")

Read the full article:

➔ [Albania and North Macedonia](#)

10) Common Agricultural Policy

Current Legislative Framework Extended until the End of 2022

On 30 June 2020, the EU legislators (European Parliament and Council) have reached a political agreement on continuing the EU financial support system for farmers under the current legal framework until the end of 2022 when the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will enter into force.

The extension provides time to finalise negotiations of the future legislative framework, as the current framework will expire by the end of 2020. Negotiations on the extension were accompanied by political demands from members of the European Parliament and the NGO community to make future agricultural subsidies conditional on environmental measures.

Read in this context the contribution "Biodiversity on farmland continues to decline despite specific CAP measures" in this issue of EWA News.

Read the full article:

➔ [Common Agricultural Policy](#)

11) Pharmaceutical Strategy to be elaborated until end of 2020

The European Commission is committed to elaborate a comprehensive Pharmaceutical Strategy, with an indicative planning deadline until the end of 2020.

The roadmap for the Strategy, published in June 2020, sets out

- Context, problem definition and a check on the principle of subsidiarity;
- Aim to be achieved and related measures; check on the principle of subsidiarity; consultations foreseen (with Member States, European Medical Agency, countries of the European Economic Area; relevant committee of the European Parliament; citizens and stakeholders; open public consultation for 12 weeks);
- Evidence base and data collection.

Positive from an environmental point of view is the commitment in the roadmap "... the regulatory framework needs to address the environmental implications of production, use and disposal of medicines. " Currently environmental risks posed by pharmaceuticals play a more than marginal role in the process of

authorisation of pharmaceuticals.

Read the full article:

➔ [Pharmaceutical Strategy](#).

12) 1. European Parliament questions

+ 2. European Parliament opposing extension of approval periods of pesticides active substances

The European Parliament is directly elected by citizens of all Member States. One key element within its right to political control is the right to table written and oral questions to European Institutions, largely to the Commission, to a smaller extent to the Council.

Due to a range of restrictions because of the COVID-19 pandemic, European Parliament activities were restricted as well. A total of 17 water-related questions have been tabled this time.

EWA News provides you in each edition with the summary text of the questions and their authors and date, plus a link to the full texts.

In addition, this editions covers a European Parliament resolution opposing a Commission Delegated Act (Implementing Regulation) on extending the EU-wide approval of certain pesticides (active substances).

Read the full article:

➔ [1 & 2](#)

EWA Online Activities

EWA Autumn Activities 2020

EWA is offering a broad programme of online activities:

➤ Click [here](#) to download the flyer of EWA Autumn Activities 2020 and get the full overview.

Information about content and registration is posted on the [EWA website](#).



EWA webinar series 'EU Green Deal and Blue Challenges'

Due to the challenges of the COVID-19, this year the annual EWA Brussels Conference will take place online as a series of four web-seminars, all with topics evolving around the EU Green Deal.

EWA webinar series: 'EU Green Deal and Blue Challenges': [Flyer](#)

- ① [27 October 2020](#): The European Green Deal and Blue Challenges
- ② [10 November 2020](#): Research and Developments for the Water Environment
- ③ [24 November 2020](#): Water Framework Directive beyond 2027
- ④ [8 December 2020](#): Future Challenges of the Water Framework Directive



Other Events

IE expo 2020 Shanghai, China

IE expo China 2020 will take place from 13-15 August at the Shanghai New International Expo Centre (SNIEC) in Shanghai, which will cover all the high potential markets in environmental area:

- Water and Sewage Treatment
- Waste Management
- Site Remediation
- Air Pollution Control and Air Purification

Don't miss the opportunity to meet the key players and your customers in IE expo China 2020!



➔ [More information](#)

IE Expo 2020 Guangzhou, China

IE expo 2020 will take place 16-18 September 2020 in Guangzhou, China.

The trade show is divided into four parts:

- Water and Sewage Treatment
- Waste Management
- Contaminated Site Remediation Treatment
- Air Pollution Control and Air Purification

IE expo Guangzhou is a must-attend event in the environmental technology domain in South China.

➔ [More information](#)



12th Eastern European Conference for Young Water Professionals

The 12th Eastern European Conference for Young Water Professionals: "Water Research and Innovations in Digital Era" takes place 15-18 September 2020 in Riga, Latvia.

The event includes conference, workshops, technical tours and a social programme. Please visit the website for more information.

➔ [Conference website](#)

IFAT, Mumbai, India

IFAT India 2020 will take place 13-15 October 2020 in Mumbai India.

IFAT INDIA will be an annual event and aims at providing an excellent international platform to showcase the full range of environmental technologies and services, with a comprehensive product portfolio from basic to highly sophisticated machinery and environmental solutions both from domestic and international exhibitors.

During IFAT India, Messe München International will organise a platform for start-ups, universities and NGOs called experience.science.future. This provides innovative companies, research institutions and non-profit organisations an opportunity to present themselves and their academic findings.

➔ [More information](#)



Ökoindustria 2020 - International Green Expo on Environmental Technologies and Services

ÖKOINDUSTRIA 2020 - International Green Expo on Environmental Technologies and Services will take place from 4-6 November 2020 in Budapest, Hungary.

Focus themes:

- Ecoinnovations and startup market
- Renewable energy and green mobility
- Circular economy, waste management
- Air- and freshwater protection
- Water and wastewater treatment
- Remediation and brownfield management
- Sustainability and awareness raising

➔ [More information](#)



Until we meet again ..

The next EWA Newsletter is due in October 2020.

Until then, please visit us at:

➔ [Facebook](#) (@ewa.online.eu)

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➔ [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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