

## PRESS RELEASE



### World Water Day 2017 – Wastewater as a resource

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**In 2017 the World Water Day's motto "Wastewater" focuses on reducing and reusing wastewater. Wastewater should be considered stronger as a resource of raw materials and not as something that has to be disposed. Wastewater now is seen as a potential resource and its use, or recycling after suitable treatment, can provide economic and financial benefits.**

By 2030 on according to UNHABITAT, global demand for water is expected to grow by 50%. Most of this demand will be in cities and will require new approaches to wastewater collection and management. Indeed, reused wastewater may help address other challenges including food production and industrial development.

The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 6.3 requires us, by 2030, to "improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally."

Progress towards the target 6.3 will also help achieve the SDGs on health and well-being (SDG 3), safe water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11), life below water (SDG 14), and life on land (SDG 15), among others.

Water is used not only in our households, but it is also an important resource for the industry and the agriculture. There is an increased pressure on the industry to reduce and treat its wastewater before being discharged. Wastewater can be used as well as between several businesses as an "industrial symbiosis". Water consumption by the industry is responsible for 22% of the global water reuse.

Not only the industry but also the wastewater treatment plants can profit from the wastewater as a resource. The fermentation gases from the wastewater can be converted into energy that can cover up to 80% of the energy consumption of the wastewater treatment plants. Furthermore, valuable resources such as phosphorus can be extracted.

In the agriculture, there is a need for improved wastewater treatment, which will reduce the pollution of groundwater and surface water by agricultural use. This is especially a major issue in developing countries. Non-conventional water resources, such as wastewater, is often used in the agriculture as wastewater is a valuable resource of water and nutrients. The most important "new source" will be the reuse of water in irrigation and groundwater recharge. This means that clear quality requirements for water reuse will have to be established.

#### EWA

The European Water Association (EWA) is an independent non-governmental and non-profit making organisation promoting the sustainable and improved management of the total water cycle and hence the environment as a whole.

It is one of the major professional associations in Europe that covers the whole water cycle, as well as wastewater and drinking water, water and wastewater treatment related wastes. With member associations from many European countries, EWA includes most of the current European Union Member States as well as Norway and Switzerland. Today, EWA consists of 25 European leading professional organisations in their respective countries, each representing professionals and technicians for wastewater and water utilities, academics, technology providers, consultants and contractors, local authorities and regulators. The Association also has a growing number of corporate members: firms and enterprises, institutes or associations. EWA thus represents about 50,000 professional individuals and specialists working in the broad field of water and environmental management.

This press information is also available under: [www.EWA-online.eu](http://www.EWA-online.eu)