

EWA Statement regarding the European elections in 2014

With the EWA Water Manifesto Issue 3 the European Water Association (EWA) had made an important contribution to the “Blueprint to safeguard Europe's Waters” from the EU-Commission. With regard to the upcoming European elections in 2014, the EWA is calling for urgent action on significant topics for the water management that must be part of the Brussels water agenda in the years to come.

Our Vision - Clean Water for Europe and Worldwide

EWA promotes the sustainable management of the total water cycle and hence the environment as a whole. EWA understands the need for the sharing of water by man and nature, by industry and homes, between countries, with social justice and equality and the need for good management and technology to ensure the sensible use of resources. EWA is a source of knowledge, experience and expertise which can be shared for the greater good of the people of Europe. EWA is willing to act as a platform for knowledge and know-how exchange between its members and the European institutions. Since its creation, EWA seeks "Clean Water for Europe". It further wants to contribute to "Clean Water Worldwide". This emphasizes our common responsibility in promoting water related actions – information exchange, expertise contributions, environmental education and good cooperation with the societies and other actors.

1. Water stress and agriculture

EWA calls for policies recognising the interactions and variable dependencies between agriculture and water management, and stresses the importance to further develop water saving techniques in agriculture. As the biggest water consumer globally, agriculture is a key issue within sustainable water policy and the development of new technology. Possibilities of water re-use should be used more intensively, especially in the southern European countries where the water stress from agriculture is very high.

2. Water Scarcity and Droughts in Europe

The EWA calls for a better planning (demand management, land use planning, drought observatory and indicator development), enhancing integration of water scarcity and droughts (Ws&D) in the River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) and in sectorial policies. EWA has been represented in the Expert Group on WS&D since 2011 and is willing to contribute in preparing high quality information and knowledge concerning the situation on WS&D in the countries of its member associations.

3. Water Cost recovery and incentive pricing

EWA calls for increased sustainability and improved transparency of infrastructure investments by implementing cost efficiency calculations of different options, indicating full life cycle costs (investment, operation, maintenance and partial replacement). Homogenous and transparent cost assessment methods are important in order to be able to make sound comparisons between countries and between water uses. Water use prices and/or social funding have to seek fairness and to be structured so as to permit all people to secure their basic human water needs also taking into account the actual water resources and their high variations in Europe.

4. Ageing Infrastructure and preparing for the future

EWA calls for sustainable operation and continuous maintenance of the infrastructure and underlines the need for well- educated staff. The ageing of the water infrastructure in many European countries creates additional challenges. Asset management plans should be elaborated by each water utilities. The most apparent problems in this respect concern bursting and leaking of the pipelines. Along with the necessity of the conventional waste water treatment, the removal of micropollutants such as pharmaceuticals is gaining importance. In many European countries there is an increasing lack of qualified staff to operate and maintain the water infrastructure.

5. Water and Energy

EWA calls on the European Commission to ensure that water management aspects are considered in the development of future energy supply policy.

EWA stresses the significance of hydropower as easily adjustable energy needed with renewable energy production, together with the need to go on reducing direct environmental impacts of hydropower plants on aquatic ecosystems and on sediments transport.

When considering renewable energies, the EWA members can provide a considerable degree of know-how.

6. Climate Change and Water

EWA calls on the European Institutions to ensure that policy in water-reliant sectors such as agriculture and energy fully recognises the significance of climate change.

EWA participates in the Climate Change Working Group of the EU and encourages research activities and facilitates networking in innovative approaches.

About EWA

The European Water Association (EWA) is a pan-European non-governmental organisation. Its members (25 national water associations and 21 corporate members) represent a diversified group of more than 50000 water professionals and specialists working in a wide variety of public and private organisations. EWA provides a forum for the discussion of key technical and policy issues on water and the environment affecting the European region. To serve its members EWA acts as a platform to exchange information and to transfer knowhow. EWA also operates as a link to the European Commission and other European institutions.

European Water Association

The values of becoming a corporate member:

- Access to a network of 55,000 individual professionals and technicians and institutions of the EWA national member associations.
 - Direct link from the EWA Homepage (www.EWA-online.eu) to your homepage.
 - Free use of EWA logo for your international and English speaking events (provided they do not compete with our National Associations' events)
 - Present yourself to the European Water World on half a page in our Yearbook (worth 790€)
 - A free entrance ticket to our annual Brussels Conference (worth 295€)
 - Reduced registration fees for all other EWA conferences and workshops
 - Contacts with the European Commission (DG Environment and Research) and the European Environment Agency
 - Reports of the Strategic Co-ordination Group meetings from the WFD in Brussels – where EWA is member together with other selected European NGO's.
 - Reports of the CEN TC 165 meetings where EWA has a guest status
- Obtain the bi-monthly EWA Newsletter, which will keep you well informed about:
 - inside news from the EU capital Brussels, from the European Commission and the European institutions
 - different activities and initiatives of the EWA
 - new events organised by the association and its partners
 - An invitation to our exclusive member event the evening before the Brussels Conference (chimney talks with a EU official)
 - Free entrance tickets for the biennial trade fairs IFAT and Water Berlin
 - Be a guest in the EWA Council meeting
 - 5 % discount on annual membership fee if you are already a member of IWA.
 - Possibility to work and be part of the network of experts in our European Policy Committee (EPC) and our European Technical and Scientific Committee (ETSC). Their purpose is to exchange information and provide help and information whenever a specific question arises, input for the preparation of comments to EU legislation is required, speakers for conferences or members for projects are needed etc.

For more information, please contact the EWA Secretariat!



Fax: +49 2242 872-135

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EWA
European Water Association
Theodor-Heuss-Allee 17
53773 Hennef • Germany

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