



Newsletter February 2025

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News from EWA

EWA at the Danish Water Forum Annual Conference

EWA Secretary General, Arthur Guischet, addressed the Danish Water Forum's Annual Water Research Conference on January 30, 2025. The conference brought together experts to discuss the EU Blue Deal and the future of water policy in Europe. With EU decisions playing an increasing role in shaping the water sector, the conference focused on how stakeholders can influence policy and ensure water remains a top priority.

Arthur Guischet engaged with key stakeholders to reinforce our commitment to European collaboration on water challenges.

The event also featured sessions on advanced wastewater treatment, groundwater management, resource recovery, and urban water solutions, showcasing the latest innovations in water research.

EWA remains committed to supporting discussions that shape the future of water policy and sustainability in Europe.

You can find the program of the conference and abstract catalogue [here](#).

Shape the Future of Water: Join EWA and Make a Difference

EWA membership offers a unique opportunity to connect with professionals dedicated to sustainable water solutions. Members enjoy access to exclusive events, networking, and resources that shape water policy. With opportunities for personal growth, visibility in the industry, and discounts on key services, joining EWA provides the tools you need to make a real difference. Enhance your impact and join a community that's shaping the future of water management.

Learn more about the benefits of joining EWA [here](#).

If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to contact us!

EWA EVENTS

New Webinar: Water Management: Quantity vs. Quality in Sponge Cities

13.02.2025- 11:00-12:30

WATER MANAGEMENT: QUANTITY VS. QUALITY IN SPONGE CITIES



13 FEBRUARY - 11:00-12:30 CET



"Sponge city addresses climate-related risk of urban flooding and drought. An ecosystem-based approach to adaptation is applied using Nature based solutions and integrating green-blue and grey infrastructures. The natural water cycle is to be strengthened by no longer draining rainwater into the sewage system as quickly as possible, but by (temporarily) storing it, allowing it to evaporate or seep away."

2024 has seen numerous flooding and droughts events occurred across the continent. One of the common actions from cities to prevent such disaster is the development of blue-grey infrastructure, also known as Sponge-City infrastructure.

The overriding goal of the sponge city is the sustainable use of water as a natural resource. Rainwater is to be retained "like a sponge" and released directly or indirectly via evaporation.[1]

This upcoming webinar, sponsored by **ACO**, will focus on "**Water Management: Quantity vs. Quality in Sponge Cities**" featuring presentations from a European Commission representative and a city official sharing their best practices and experiences. Following this, an Experts Roundtable / Impulse will bring together diverse perspectives from various fields.

The event will take place on February 13th from 11.00am to 12.30pm CET and offers an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and learn insights from successful initiatives across Europe.

Sponsor of the Conference



> REGISTER NOW



New Webinar: The Revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive: Insights and Q&A

Come and join us online on February 26th for our webinar on the UWWTD with Michel Sponar from the European Commission.

Make sure to sign up quickly as there is only limited capacity <

The Revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive: Insights and Q&A

26th February
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM



The **revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive** entered into force on the first of January 2025 meaning the transposition into national law should be effective before June 30, 2027.

To understand more the final version of the text and its implication, the European Water Association has invited **Michel Sponar, Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate General for the Environment** to hold a presentation of the text and to exchange on the ideas and expectation behind this text.

The presentation will be followed by the comments from the EWA Secretariat and a Q&A with the participants will be arranged.

So make sure you sign up so you can ask all the questions you have!

REGISTER AT
WWW.EWA-ONLINE.EU

News from Brussels

Topics covered in the News from Brussels

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

1. EIT Water
2. European Parliament water related questions
3. The Forever Lobbying Project
4. Update on the Water Resilience Strategy
5. Upholding the law
6. The European Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard
7. World Water Day 2025: Glacier Preservation

1. EIT Water

As part of its strategy for 2021-2027, the EIT will create a new Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the field of water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems. This was confirmed by a European Commission analysis published on 27 June 2024 that presented how the establishment of the new KIC is needed to tackle water scarcity, droughts, floods, and marine and freshwater degradation. The EIT KIC will connect top partners and steer innovation to strengthen the blue economy and Europe's competitiveness.

The Call for Proposals for the new KIC is open until 17 June 2025 and the designated EIT KIC will be launched in 2026. The KIC will unite water, marine, and maritime innovators to join the EIT Community and build a pan-European partnership that addresses the most pressing challenges facing water-related innovation ecosystems.

Read the full article:

➔ [EIT Water](#)

2. European Parliament water related questions

Members of the European Parliament show a regular interest of water issues in their Parliamentary questions.

In the period between 28 November and 27 January 2025, 23 water-related questions were tabled, from the water scarcity to drinking water availability, to fishing, and the Water Framework Directive.

EWA News presents you the outline texts of the questions and the coordinates of the MEP who has submitted them, plus links to the full text and (once available) the answers.

Read the full article:

➔ [EP water related questions](#)

3. The Forever Lobbying Project

The Forever Lobbying Project exposes the real cost of PFAS pollution on the environment, science, and politics

In 2023, the Forever Pollution Project, a pioneering cross-border and interdisciplinary collaboration, brought together journalists and experts to reveal and map, for the first time, the extent of PFAS contamination across Europe.

In January 2025, the Forever Lobbying Project exposes the lobbying and disinformation campaign orchestrated by the chemical and plastic lobbies to prevent the ban of these “forever chemicals” in the European Union. Fighting to keep their “chemical business as usual” with misleading, scaremongering arguments, polluting industries are shifting the burden of environmental contamination onto society, threatening the economic stability of European nations.

Working with 18 experts, the project calculated the cost of decontaminating Europe if nothing is done to combat PFAS emissions: the figure is more than €100 billion per year – and a staggering €2 trillion over twenty years.

Read the full article:

➔ [Forever Lobbying Project](#)

4. Update on the Water Resilience Strategy

Following the Water Resilience Initiative cancellation and its come back as the Water Resilience Strategy, water remains high on the agenda in Brussels.

The right to clean drinking water is still a priority for the European Parliament. Before Christmas 34 Members of Parliament (MEPs) asked EU Vice-President Raffaele Fitto to step up for the upcoming water resilience strategy. Most MEPs want to reduce the high leakage rates in Europe, accelerate the ban on PFAS and they are against water as a business product.

Earlier this year, the EU Commissioner Jessika Roswall, responsible for Environment, Water Resilience, and a Competitive Circular Economy, shared her vision for the strategy in several interviews.

Soon, the European Commission will publish a country-by-country assessment of how well Member States are implementing the EU water legislation. A call for evidence will be launched, offering stakeholders an opportunity to provide input and contribute to the strategy's design.

Read the full article:

➔ [Water Resilience Strategy](#)

5. Upholding the law

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 saw a range of infringement procedures, from the AIR directive to the Water Framework Directive to the Drinking Water Directive, against the following Member States:

Portugal
Sweden

The Commission is at the same time closing a three-digit number of cases in which the issues with the

Member States concerned have been solved without the Commission needing to pursue the procedure further.

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements of the cases, an overview of the system of infringement procedures and links to environmental cases where the Court imposed financial sanctions.

Read the full article:

→ [Upholding the law](#)

6. The European Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard

The European Commission has launched a powerful tool for tracking disease spreads: the European Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard. This platform consolidates data from various national and research dashboards, offering real-time insights into pathogens like SARS-CoV-2, RSV, and influenza. By analyzing wastewater, it provides early signals of disease trends, supporting public health responses.

Developed by the EU Wastewater Observatory for Public Health, the dashboard aids in monitoring public health parameters, contributing to a unified EU health surveillance system.

Read the full article:

→ [EU Wastewater Surveillance Dashboard](#)

7. World Water Day 2025: Glacier Preservation

World Water Day, celebrated on March 22 every year since 1993, raises awareness about the importance of freshwater and the global water crisis. It focuses on the 2.2 billion people without access to safe water and works toward achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6: water and sanitation for all by 2030.

In 2025, the theme is Glacier Preservation, emphasizing the need to protect glaciers, which provide essential water for drinking, agriculture, and energy. This year's focus highlights the urgency of tackling climate change and preserving water resources for the future.

Read the full article:

→ [World Water Day 2025](#)

Other Events

AfWASA International Congress & Exhibition

16-20.03.2025 - Kampala, Uganda

Under the theme “Water and Sanitation for All: A Secure Future for Africa,” this congress promises to be a pivotal gathering, uniting water and sanitation stakeholders from across the globe to share knowledge, experiences, and innovative breakthroughs aimed at ensuring universal access to water and sanitation throughout Africa.

The conference is to be the premier water and sanitation event in Africa for 2025, attracting all key professionals in the field. Of particular note is the enriching professional programme comprising over 80 technical and poster sessions, numerous workshops, pre-congress seminars, and special forums. Anticipate the participation of more than 3,000 delegates from over 100 countries.

Event website: <https://www.afwasa2025.org/>

IFAT Africa

08.07.2025–10.07.2025 - Johannesburg, South Africa

IFAT Africa is the ultimate platform to showcase technologies and solutions for water, sewage, refuse and recycling for the sub-Saharan Africa market. The trade fair is the gateway for international companies to the African market and for African enterprises to the global market, connecting key industry players with senior buyers and decision makers in the region. As Africa's leading environmental trade fair, IFAT Africa offers an effective business and networking platform for South African and international professionals in the environmental sector and is accompanied by a first-class supporting program. It is the ideal platform for professionals in the environmental industry to develop business, exchange ideas and network.



More information on the [official website](#).

CEST 2025

03 - 06.09.2025 - Kos island, Greece

Started in 1989, the International Conference on Environmental Science and Technology (CEST) is a leading environmental conference where top experts, scientists, entrepreneurs, representatives of public administration and social initiatives present state-of-the-art research on current and emerging environmental issues. The Global Network of Environmental Science and Technology is organizing the conference jointly with the University of the Aegean (Greece), the University of Salerno (Italy), and the Open University of Cyprus (Cyprus).



CEST2025 is announced at a pivotal time when the intensifying climate crisis is challenging the resilience of societies worldwide and reshaping the planet's natural systems.

More information on the [official website](#).

IFAT Munich 2026

04-07. Mai 2026- Munich, Germany

IFAT Munich is the World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management.

Here you can successfully present your strategies and new solutions from the fields of water, wastewater, waste and raw materials management. So that in future even more resources can be preserved in intelligent cycles in the long term and with the greatest possible efficiency. You can now register to exhibit.



More information on the [official website](#).

Until we meet again ..

The next EWA Newsletter will be sent out April 2025.

Until then, please visit us at:

- ★ [LinkedIn](#) (European Water Association)
- ★ [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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