

## PRESS RELEASE

### “Water and Climate Change”

**The European Water Association supports the UN World Water Day 22.03.2020 and the All Hands On World Water Day campaign to help retain the Corona Virus (COVID-19) outbreak.**

**Press release 20.03 2020**

The World Water Day, which is celebrated every year the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, is about focusing attention on the importance of water. The theme of 2020 is ‘Water and Climate Change’, and the purpose is to show the close and interdependent link between water and climate change.

One of the big challenges of today is the outbreak of the corona virus (COVID-19). Therefore, the UN has cancelled or postponed many of the World Water Day face-to-face events, and promotes All Hands On World Water Day 2020. Johannes Lohaus, who is the Secretary General of the European Water Association (EWA), says, *“Also EWA has postponed events, like e.g. the EWA Green Capital Workshop on ‘Managing Climate Change and Resilience on the Wastewater in the Urban Sector’ and the 20<sup>th</sup> International EWA Symposium on “Integration of the Water Sector in the Circular Economy”, which was due to take place during the IFAT in Munich, Germany, 6-7 May has been postponed with the IFAT to 9-10 September. Thus, EWA strongly supports all measures to retain the outbreak of the corona virus. Johannes Lohaus concludes, “As the UN, EWA advises to follow the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO). Only if we stand together will we overcome challenges and make this planet a healthy and sustainable place to be. Insufficient hygiene without clear water is impossible”.*

As an independent, non-governmental and non-profit making organisation, the European Water Association (EWA) is dealing with the management and improvement of the water environment. With member associations from many European countries, EWA is one of the major professional associations in Europe that covers the whole water sector, wastewater as well as drinking water and water related waste. Johannes Lohaus underlines that *“Water and Climate Change indeed present different aspects of, and solutions to, the same problem, as do also hygiene and clean water”.*

Therefore, EWA strongly urges the EU Commission to upgrade the visibility of the significance of water in the Green Deal Policy, which was decided upon last year. *“To support this statement”, Johannes Lohaus continues, “EWA is planning the 15<sup>th</sup> EWA Brussels conference to be about The European Green Deal and Blue Challenges”.*

The 15<sup>th</sup> EWA Brussels Conference on The European Green Deal and Blue Challenges will take place the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 2020. At the conference, distinguished persons from both the EU Commission, research institutions and the water industry will present different perspectives

of challenges as well as possible solutions to the implementation of the Green Deal in the European water sector.

**For more information, please contact:**

Johannes Lohaus, Secretary General of the European Water Association:

Email: [lohaus@ewa-online.eu](mailto:lohaus@ewa-online.eu) or tel. +49 (0) 2224 872 110

**About the European Water Association (EWA)**

The European Water Association is an important independent and non-profit European organization that deals with the entire water cycle with member associations in almost every European member state. As an NGO, EWA represents an extensive network of water professionals and specialists, and forms a European forum for the discussion of the important technical and strategic water issues and thereby contributes to the formation of a European water policy.

If your organization would like to be a part of an association, which fights for better access to clean water for everyone, EWA has different options for membership: National, corporate, sponsor and research membership

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