

EurEau



**Annual  
Report  
2023**





EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

Framework

## Introduction 3

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| A message from the President | 3 |
|------------------------------|---|



## Policy Work 5

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Water Legislation                                 | 6  |
| Sustainable Agriculture and food                  | 8  |
| Circular Economy                                  | 10 |
| Climate and energy                                | 12 |
| Zero pollution                                    | 14 |
| Chemicals   | 16 |
| Security and resilience                           | 18 |
| Finance   | 19 |
| Supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals | 20 |
| Position papers and briefing notes 2023           | 21 |

## Beyond Policy 22

|                                       |    |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| EurEau elects new President and board | 23 |
| EurEau welcomes new members           | 23 |
| EurEau secondments                    | 23 |
| EurEau meetings                       | 24 |
| European Parliament Intergroup        | 26 |
| Information Sharing Platform news     | 27 |



## Framework 28

|   |    |
|---|----|
| A message from the Secretary General  | 29 |
| Our EurEau Vision   | 31 |
| Our water services of tomorrow – Let's make change happen                       | 32 |
| The team  | 33 |
| Participation in European Commission Expert and Advisory Groups                 | 34 |
| Other bodies EurEau participates in   | 34 |
| Participation in research projects  | 37 |
| EurEau General Assembly, President & Committee Chairs and Committee Chairpeople | 38 |
| EurEau member associations and General Assembly Representatives 2024            | 41 |





EurEau

3

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

Framework

## A message from the President

2023 began with a sense of optimism, buoyed by the expectation that our water resources would be recognised and valued as they deserve, with significant legislative efforts being made to improve water quality and quantity through legislation such as the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD), the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED), Environmental Quality Standards and the Groundwater Directives (EQSD and GWD).

You win some, you lose some. There are positive moves from the institutions on the IED, the EQSD and GWD, and the conclusion of the UWWTD in April 2024 sent a clear message to polluters that they are responsible for cleaning up their mess. However, we were disappointed that the plans for a Water Resilience Initiative this year were postponed.





EurEau

## 4 Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

Framework

DESPITE INITIAL PROGRESS, WE ENCOUNTERED FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION TO KEY INITIATIVES LIKE THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS REGULATION (SUR) BEING SHELVED.

Yet, amidst these challenges, we persevered, adapting our strategies and advocating tirelessly for the crucial role of water in our agricultural, economic, and societal future.

In the face of global uncertainties, from pandemics to geopolitical tensions and ongoing conflicts, the importance of securing our water resources has never been more apparent. As set out in our manifesto for the upcoming European Parliament elections, the water sector stands as a vital partner in advancing a greener, more resilient future for Europe and beyond. It is incumbent upon us to seize this moment, leveraging our collective expertise and advocacy to protect our environment and ensure access to clean water for all. We will continue to work with the EU institutions on underpinning the importance of water for our future. Without adequate supplies of clean water and sanitation services, these goals are not achievable. We set out the enabling factors needed to do this in a paper published in November.

Looking ahead, our priorities are clear. We must focus on enhancing pollution control at the source, bolstering the resilience of water services, promoting resource efficiency, and securing sustainable financing. These objectives provide a roadmap for our collective efforts in the years to come.

*To achieve them, we must cultivate our key strengths of:*

- 1 **advocating for consumers and water services**
- 2 **harnessing the experience of our experts and secretariat**
- 3 **building consensus around strong positions**
- 4 **working together.**

As President of EurEau, I am deeply grateful for the dedication and contributions of each of our 180 experts. Their unwavering commitment to our shared goals has been instrumental in shaping the robust water services we provide to

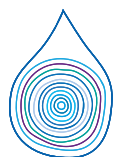
the 500 million people across Europe who depend on our services.

Finally, I send my biggest thanks to the amazing secretariat – past and present. I am in awe and full of admiration for the spectacular work they deliver. This is all the more impressive knowing the changes the team has undergone in the past 18 months. That is proof of their pure professionalism and dedication.

Together, united by our common purpose and shared ambition, we are a well-respected and strong voice – one that cannot be ignored. Let us continue to collaborate, innovate, and advocate for the preservation and responsible management of our most precious resource: water.

With sincere appreciation and anticipation for the journey ahead.

**Pär Dalhielm**  
EurEau President



EurEau

Introduction

5

**Policy work**

Beyond Policy

Framework



# Policy Work





EurEau

Introduction

6

**Policy work**

Beyond Policy

Framework

## **Water legislation**

Water is essential for life. Providing adequate supplies of safe and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to everyone is the driver for all water service providers everywhere. Key to this is ensuring that our environment is free from pollutants as these are prevented from entering it to begin with, through control-at-source measures.



Apart from monitoring national implementation, we contributed extensively to secondary legislation related to this directive. We finalised our leakage **position** with the 2026 deadline for national leakage assessment in mind and proposed a harmonised index for water providers.

## THE 2020 DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE (DWD) IS NOW IN FORCE, BRINGING MORE ROBUST DRINKING WATER STANDARDS FOR CONSUMERS.

We elaborated detailed comments on the future rules for materials in contact with drinking water and commented on the analytical methods proposed by the European Commission. As well as this, we input to the Commission's analytical methods for monitoring microplastics and PFAS in water.

The Commission published a proposal amending parts of the Water Framework Directive (WFD),

Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) and Groundwater Directive (GWD) in late 2022. We called for the prioritisation of source-control measures to tackle pollution before turning to end-of-pipe measures. We published our **position** on the Commission's proposal where we supported the enlargement of the list of priority substances, as stricter quality standards (EQS) should lead to the better protection of water resources.

Ensuring water resources for the future means managing them effectively now. We contributed to the managed aquifer recharge guidance under the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS).

We provided input to the risk assessment for the water reuse projects' delegated act to facilitate the application of the Water Reuse Regulation which sets standards for the use of reclaimed wastewater in agricultural irrigation.

We took part in stakeholder consultations calling for the better implementation of the Nitrates Directive to reduce nitrate pollution of water resources.

Our main work this year, however, focussed on the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive which will define the changes needed on our journey to fit-for-future, energy- and resource-efficient wastewater services. We finalised our **position** paper early in the year which strikes a balance between the multiple national and regional situations and therefore offered a viable compromise to political decision makers.

We submitted detailed proposals at all stages of the political process in the European Parliament and the Council, based on the expertise of our members and put forward our views at many meetings and events, including an EP intergroup event, Stakeholder Consultation and a Committee of the Regions stakeholder meeting.

After months of intensive meetings as well as papers, co-signed **letters** and additional information, we are confident that the final text introduces the means for tackling remaining pollution, making wastewater services future-proof as well as a good basis for Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).

## Sustainable Agriculture and Food

It is vital that we all have enough food and at a fair price. The same is true for water. These two sectors are inexorably linked, with farmers needing reliable supplies of water for crops and livestock. On the reverse, this essential sector has a considerable impact on the quality of water resources, through the leaching of veterinary medicines, pesticides and fertilisers into water bodies and also on the quantity of water, due to the amount of water extracted. Protecting water bodies from the damaging effects while ensuring adequate food is essential.





## WATER PROTECTION SUFFERED A SETBACK IN AUTUMN 2023, WITH THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS REGULATION (SUR) BEING WITHDRAWN



We worked with colleagues and other stakeholders to encourage MEPs to protect drinking water resources from pesticide contamination and achieve policy coherence with both the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Drinking Water Directive (DWD).

However, the proposals were weakened and subsequently withdrawn, which will only open drinking water resources to pesticide contamination. You can read more [here](#) and our position [here](#). Meanwhile, we actively supported the Commission's Regulation on Statistics

on Agricultural Input and Output (SAIO), linked to the 2009 Plant Protection Products Regulation, making relevant information more accessible to the competent authority and third parties such as water treatment plants on request.

After years of close collaboration, we were pleased to see the European Food Safety Authority 'Guidance [document](#) on the impact of water treatment processes on residues of active substances or their metabolites in water abstracted for the production of drinking water', which proposes a decision procedure to avoid that drinking water treatment processes lead to the creation of hazardous compounds from pesticides and biocides and their metabolites.

## Circular Economy

Reduce, reuse, recycle is the mantra we hear repeated a lot these days as a means of conserving our earth's resources. The potential to reuse materials depends on these materials being free from contaminants. The water sector can contribute significantly to the Circular Economy, but contaminants may hinder this. The use of these recycled materials must be encouraged and promoted.



## THE BEST AND MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF KEEPING OUR WATER FREE FROM CONTAMINANTS IS TO PREVENT THEM FROM GETTING IN THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE.



We advocate for sound control-at-source measures to do this, and if this is not possible or effective, then Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes should come into effect.

We assessed the Sewage Sludge Directive (SSD) evaluation. If revised, it should be ensured that quality biosolids can be safely used on land and that sludge management options remain open so that local circumstances can be included.

The Commission planned to set out an Integrated Nutrient Management Action Plan (INMAP) in the autumn of 2023. We participated in stakeholder consultations, arguing in favour of 'market pull' measures to develop demand for recycled nutrients from sewage sludge. We endorsed an open letter sent by the European Environmental Bureau (EEB) to the European Commission Executive Vice-President for the European Green Deal, Maroš Šefčovič, calling on the Commission to publish the INMAP. In the end, the Commission failed to publish it and did not include it in its Work Plan for 2024. We encourage the Commission to publish the plan as soon as possible.

## Climate and Energy

Every human activity affects the world around us, contributing in some way to increased energy use and climate change. The resulting emissions affect our water resources and the rest of the environment, including climate, resulting in more frequent floods and droughts.



Despite the energy-intensive nature of the water sector, it has the potential to harness significant energy through resource reuse and recycling within the treatment process. However, fully realising this potential necessitates a robust regulatory framework to provide necessary support.

WE WANT OUR ENVIRONMENT TO BE PROTECTED, ENSURING WE WILL HAVE ENOUGH WATER FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

This framework materialised during the year when the Council and Parliament agreed on the **revised Renewable Energy Directive** to include a binding target to raise the share of renewables in the EU's overall energy consumption to a minimum of 42.5% by 2030, as

key to reaching the goal of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030 and becoming a climate-neutral continent by 2050. We welcomed the agreement and advocated that Member States take measures to support the generation of renewable energy in the water services sector and realise its potential to contribute substantially to the renewable energy targets and climate policies.

In addition, the **Energy Efficiency Directive** was adopted in September, setting new targets for energy efficiency by 2030, requiring cost-effective energy efficiency measures in all relevant sectors where activity affects energy demand. We welcomed the specific consideration of the water-energy nexus, as well as the need to explore and realise the potential for energy savings through the use of smart technologies and processes whenever cost-effective.

We contributed to the Commission's call for evidence to prepare a communication on societal resilience in managing climate risks.

In light of the sheer amount of challenges and opportunities, we set up a new Joint Working Group on Energy and Climate to stimulate the discussion on this topic. We also ran a webinar on Greenhouse Gas emissions in the wastewater sector.

Goal to reduce net greenhouse gas by

55%  
BY 2030

## Zero Pollution

The most effective way of addressing pollution in the environment is using control-at-source approaches to prevent their entry from the outset.

However, when these pollutants reach the wastewater treatment plant, further implementation of the Polluter Pays Principle should be enforced, as has been done in the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD).

In the spring, the Commission unveiled the draft revised pharmaceuticals legislation.



Our recommendations included extended environmental risk assessments, measures to limit over-the-counter sales of harmful substances, and granting water operators full access to the assessments of new medicines.

## WE ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH POLICY-MAKERS, URGING THE COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN THE LEGISLATION'S ENVIRONMENTAL CREDENTIALS.

We believe these recommendations will align the pharmaceutical sector with the Zero Pollution objectives of the Green Deal. This will help reduce pollution from pharmaceutical residues reaching our water resources and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Our position on the Pharmaceuticals Legislation was published in October, expressing support for the Commission's approach to balancing environmental protection with access to medicines.

Additionally, we welcomed the Commission's draft revised Mercury

Regulation, particularly the proposal to end the use of dental amalgam by January 2025. This ban addresses a large source of mercury pollution in surface waters and contributes to the Circular Economy by reducing mercury in urban wastewater, thereby improving the quality of sludge and increasing the water reuse possibilities.

The Commission released its proposal for a Soil Monitoring Law in July. We were disappointed that the Commission chose to drop the expected "Soil Health Law" title and to reduce the scope of the Directive, focusing on monitoring but stopping short of concrete measures to improve soil health. Nonetheless, we welcomed the introduction of legislation focusing on soil pollution and called for a strong link between soil and ground- and surface water quality.

Another significant legislative milestone was the finalisation of the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) which came in spring 2024. We actively advocated for ambitious requirements, including informing wastewater treatment plant operators of industrial discharges and consulting water operators before granting permits. We were pleased that the co-legislators supported this view

and binding water efficiency targets are set for industry, which will reduce the pressure on our scarce water resources.

We fully support the Commission's proposal to reduce microplastics by 30% by 2030. We recognise the urgent need to address microplastic pollution and endorse measures to mitigate its unintentional release into the environment. In this regard, we **supported** the Commission's Proposal for a Regulation on Preventing Plastic Pellet Losses to Reduce Microplastic Pollution, which will allow for a regulatory framework implementing control-at-source for a relevant part of microplastics.

While applauding progress in various legislative areas, we assert that the Detergents Regulation must align with the EU's Zero Pollution Ambition. The Commission's proposal for revision lacks ambition and fails to leverage advancements in technology over the past two decades. The Parliament reflects many of our **views** while the Council will not formalise their position before mid 2024. We advocate elevating ambition levels in line with successful Ecolabel criteria, ensuring a future-proof regulation.

## Chemicals

Chemicals are all around us, making up the world around us, and even ourselves. While many are benign, some of these chemicals cause harm to both human and environmental health. This is also true when they find their way into our waterways. These contaminants can make their way up the food chain and have to be removed from our raw drinking water and wastewater before the water can move to its next stage.





## WE WANT A PROACTIVE APPROACH TARGETING THE SOURCES OF PARTICULARLY HARMFUL CHEMICALS, TO PREVENT THEIR ENTRY INTO THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE FEASIBLE, OR IMPLEMENTING EFFECTIVE EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY COVERING DRINKING AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT.

The Commission proposed to amend the Classification, Labelling, and Packaging (CLP) Regulation, proposed in late 2022. We were satisfied with the Commission's inclusion of new hazard classes such as PMT, vPvM, and Endocrine Disruptors.

We signed a joint letter asking the Commission to avoid further delays to the revision of REACH. A robust REACH, updated to deal with new challenges, will better protect our water resources. Unfortunately, this proposal is now delayed indefinitely.

Particularly, we advocate for a comprehensive ban on PFAS due to their persistent nature and the financial and environmental costs of removing them from raw drinking water. We actively engage with ECHA committees for Risk Assessment and Social and Economic Analysis.

Our PFAS Task Force met to prepare our response to the ECHA public consultation linked to the universal PFAS restriction proposal.

In parallel, ECHA finalised the restriction proposal for PFAS in fire-fighting foams. While this is a step in the right direction, transition periods are too long and the Polluter Pays Principle is not implemented. We urge the Commission to make this a legislative requirement without delay.

We follow the ECHA work on restricting bisphenol A (BPA) and other bisphenols.

## Security and Resilience

Ensuring we all have adequate supplies of water for the future relies on adequate security of these supplies. Protecting our water sources and the associated infrastructure from man-made or natural hazards is paramount.

The EU finalised two important pieces of legislation in this regard: the High Common Level of Cybersecurity Across the Union Directive (NIS2) and the Critical Entities Resilience Directive (CERD), which should be fully implemented by October 2024.

Drinking water and wastewater operators are explicitly included in the definition of critical entities. Depending on the risks, the new rules may also apply to very small operators.

We published two internal background notes, one on NIS2 and one on the CERD, to support our members in the national implementation phase. We continue to work with our members to monitor implementation at national level.

We published our **position** on the Gigabit Infrastructure Act (GIA). We support its goals as high-speed telecom networks are essential for the digitalisation of water services. We advocate excluding drinking water networks from infrastructure potentially used for telecom network expansion, prioritising human health.



## Finance

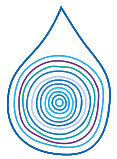
Our Task Force Taxonomy reacted to the European Commission's proposal for the Taxonomy Environmental Delegated Act (previously referred to as Taxo4) as well as a proposal to amend the Taxonomy Climate Delegated Act.

Furthermore, we submitted proposals through the EU taxonomy stakeholder request mechanism, to further improve the screening criteria for drinking water and wastewater services on the Commission's delegated acts of the Taxonomy Regulation.

We work with the EU institutions to remind them that a socially just, green transition cannot happen without ambitious rules.

The Commission is working on a communication to assess the implementation of the Polluter Pays principle at national and EU levels. We contributed to this work with a focus on the water sector.





EurEau

Introduction

**20** Policy work

Beyond Policy

Framework

## Supporting the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Across Europe, access to drinking and wastewater services is very good, with around 96% of people having access to public drinking water services and 87% of people being connected to a public wastewater network in the EU27.

Nonetheless, we fully support the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 6 of ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Maintaining and upgrading infrastructure will be key to delivering this goal in particular. The water sector is improving its investment to ensure that infrastructure is robust enough and fit-for-purpose so that we all have safe water and sanitation.

We work with the EU institutions to ensure the financing of the infrastructure necessary to deliver effective water services. Water service providers coordinate their activities with other stakeholders.



## Position papers 2023

WE PUBLISHED MANY POSITION PAPERS THAT WE WILL USE TO ADVANCE CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.



**Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**



**Environmental Quality Standards**



**Gigabit Infrastructure Act**



**Pharmaceuticals Legislative Package**



**Detergents Regulation**



**Leakage Reduction**



**Soil Monitoring**



**Dental Amalgam and the Mercury Regulation**



**Plastic Pellets**



# Beyond Policy

## EurEau elects new President and board

EurEau's General Assembly elected a new President, Executive Committee and Committee Chairs at the May 2023 meeting in Prague, Czech Republic.

Pär Dalhielm is the new EurEau President, leading Europe's water services with the ambition to strengthen our voice in the coming political debates and policymaking. Pär is the CEO of Svenskt Vatten, the Swedish national organisation for drinking water and wastewater services.

The full result of the EurEau elections are:

- **Pär Dalhielm (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden):** President
- **Gesche Grützmacher (DVGW, Germany) and Riina Liikanen (FIWA, Finland):** co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Drinking Water (EU1)
- **John Casey (Uisce Éireann, Ireland) and Paula Lindell (FIWA, Finland):** co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Wastewater (EU2)
- **Denis Bonvillain (FP2E, France) and Brian Murphy (Uisce Éireann, Ireland):** co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3).

The full Executive Committee is composed of the president, the committee chairpeople and the following elected members:

Mariano Blanco Orozco (AEAS, Spain), Claudia Castell-Exner (DVGW, Germany), Karl Cilia (WaterServices Corporation, Malta), Stuart Colville (Water UK), Sandis Dejus (Latvian Water and Wastewater Works Association), Luigi del Giacco (Utilitalia, Italy) and Klara Ramm, (IGWP, Poland).

Alain Gillis (Belgaqua, Belgium) remains as treasurer.

All parties took up their new positions from 01 July 2023.

## EurEau welcomes new members

EurEau welcomed the Lithuanian association Vandens Jėga (2023) and the Icelandic association Samorka (2024), bringing our membership to 38 members in 33 countries. We are delighted to have you join us and to work together.



## EurEau secondments

Susanne Vangsgård from DANVA, Denmark, joined the secretariat in Brussels for February 2023 while Paula Lindell, (FIWA, Finland) EU2 co-Chairperson, was on secondment in October.



EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

**24** Beyond Policy

Framework

## EurEau meetings

FEB

### Wastewater (EU2)

Online  
2-3 February

### Drinking water (EU1)

Online  
6-7 February

### Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3)

Online  
23-24 February

MAR

### Executive Committee

Bonn, Germany  
2-3 March

MAY

### General Assembly

Prague, Czech Republic  
25-26 May

JUN

### Wastewater (EU2)

Versailles, France  
1-2 June

### Executive Committee

Online  
8 June

### Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3)

Brussels, Belgium  
8-9 June

### Drinking water (EU1)

Tallinn, Estonia  
15-16 June

SEP

### Executive Committee

Rome, Italy  
14-15 September

OCT

### Drinking water (EU1)

Brescia, Italy  
5-6 October

### Wastewater (EU2)

Dublin, Ireland  
12-13 October

### General Assembly

Ljubljana, Slovenia  
26-27 October

NOV

### Economics and Legal Affairs (EU3)

Dublin, Ireland  
23-24 November

DEC

### Executive Committee

Online  
14 December





EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

25

Beyond Policy

Framework

Our Joint Working Groups – Innovation, Micropollutants, Water Reuse, Value of Water Services, and the Water Framework Directive – were also active this year, meeting several times to advance on their themes. In 2024, we will disband the JWG on the Value of Water Services as they have achieved their intentions. To meet evolving needs, we are setting up a new JWG on Energy and Climate.

We have two Task Forces, one to look at PFAS, provisionally chaired by Oliver Loebel, EurEau Secretary General and one on Taxonomy, led by Luigi del Giacco (Utilitalia, Italy). Both Task Forces were also active throughout the year.

EurEau's Executive Committee met four times over the year. Two were online, while the others were held in Bonn (Germany) and Rome (Italy).

Our General Assembly met twice, once in Prague, Czech Republic and in Ljubljana in Slovenia.

Thank you to all those who volunteered to host meetings for us this year. While online meetings are useful, there is no replacement for meeting colleagues and friends in person.

## THE WATER LOBBY GROUP

The Water Lobby Group is an informal group of professionals working for EurEau's members in European affairs, advocacy, corporate affairs and international affairs. The group meets monthly and is coordinated by the EurEau Secretariat. We encourage participants from national associations to attend. The group is essential to our work on legislative files, such as the Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

## EUREAU NETWORK OF COMMUNICATIONS MANAGERS

Our communications colleagues meet informally online every month to share updates on our work.



## European Parliament Intergroup

THE WORKING GROUP 'WATER MANAGEMENT' OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT'S INTERGROUP ON BIODIVERSITY, CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT' CONTINUES TO MEET.



The Intergroup brings together Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from many political groups and Parliamentary Committees to find sustainable solutions to some of the greatest challenges of our time. We support it and sit on the advisory board.

We co-organised one meeting this year, on the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and spoke at several others.



EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

27 Beyond Policy

Framework



OUR INFORMATION SHARING PLATFORM CONTINUED TO GAIN MEMBERS IN 2023, SUPPORTED BY SEVERAL WEBINARS.



We held a webinar on leakage (February), with Mark Sklivaniotis, lead of the EurEau Working Group Leakage, 'Proposal on the Harmonisation of Leakage Reporting' with Enric Bonet from CETAQUA and 'TECHLEAKS: The most efficient leak detection technologies' with David Lonergan, National Leakage Manager at Uisce Éireann (Irish Water).

In June, we held a webinar on critical treatment chemicals with Dr Rudi Winzenbacher from the Association for State Water Supply in Baden-Württemberg, Germany and Klara Westling of Svenskt Vatten, Sweden.

GHG accounting in the wastewater sector (process emissions) was front and centre of discussions in September, featuring Klara Westling from Svenskt Vatten, Anne Marieke Motelica-Wagenaar from Waternet and Mark Williams from Scottish Water.

And we also held a webinar on recruitment of suitably qualified people to the water sector, with Klara Ramm from IGWP, Poland, Ingrid Holøyen Skjærbakken from Norsk Vann, Mariana Iteva from Veolia Bulgaria and Joanna Napierala from the CEDEFOP (the European Centre for Vocational Training).

We added a discussion room on Demand Management – Drinking Water, with chats on Customer Impact and Engagement, Leakage, and Strategic Planning and Investment. We have also added a new discussion room on critical raw materials for the drinking and wastewater sectors.

The EurEau Information Sharing Platform is open to EurEau member associations and their member companies.



# Framework

# 2024; a pivotal year

## A message from the Secretary General

Looking ahead to what awaits us in 2024 is like reading a crystal ball. The EU institutions are likely to push for as many as possible legislative projects to be finalised. In April, the EU Parliament will switch into election campaign mode and activities will not pick up again before late autumn. A new Commission will have to be approved by the freshly elected Members of the European Parliament. Along the process, the political priorities for the next mandate will be redefined. It is very likely that the strategic focus in the Parliament and Commission will - at least partially - shift away from sustainability and climate protection.





# THE NEW BUZZWORD IS 'RESILIENCE' WITH INDUSTRIAL POLICY, COMPETITIVENESS, SECURITY AND DEFENCE AT ITS HEART.

This in itself is laudable as strong economies form the basis of our welfare systems and geopolitical tensions require investment to protect our countries from various threats. However, this cannot be to the detriment of our natural resources and, in particular, our water resources. On the contrary, access to sufficient quantities of uncontaminated water is a prerequisite to the functioning of our societies, including most economic activities.

Competition for access to our scarce water resources will increase with new users entering the market, including hydrogen and chip producers. On the other hand, we see that the pollution of available water resources does not only harm nature but raises the cost for all water users be they private households, industry or agriculture.

A good example are PFAS, the forever chemicals. Ignoring the 'No data, no market' principle, policymakers let the widespread contamination of our (aquatic) environment happen. The impacts on resilience are clear: drinking water will become more expensive, affecting people's purchasing power. Reclaimed water may be unusable for the irrigation of farmland, putting agriculture in many regions at risk. Recreational water use may have to be restricted, affecting touristic activities. As a side effect, the energy and resource use of the water services and waste sectors will increase massively. We will therefore continue to push policymakers to support a prompt and far-reaching ban on all PFAS uses.

**Our overall message is simple:**

**We will not achieve resilient, safe and competitive societies without a resilient water sector that is equipped to meet expectations.**

And this message is also at the core of our updated strategy due to be launched in spring 2024. That year may be a year of transition, but it will still be full of challenges. They include secondary legislation linked to the Drinking Water Directive, actions to facilitate the implementation of Extended Producer Responsibility under the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, legislative work on the Water Framework Directive, the Industrial Emissions Directive, the pharmaceuticals legislation, the Soil Monitoring Directive and many more.

Next to all the advocacy work, we will further strengthen the exchange of knowledge and expertise between our members, in particular through our Information Sharing Platform. And last but not least, we will launch the update of our 'Europe's Water in Figures' publication. This report is widely used as a reliable source of information from the European Commission to the OECD, The Economist and the BBC.

A lot of work lies ahead. But let's never forget that we are strongest when we work together. While this involves a lot of effort, coordination and compromise, we also build great relationships and share good times. Through all the ups and downs, we are able to maintain this friendship and solidarity. This empowers us to move towards fully resilient and sustainable water services.

**Oliver Loebel**  
EurEau Secretary General



EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

31 Framework

## 2024 EurEau Vision

OUR SOCIETY, ECONOMY,  
ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH  
DEPEND ON EACH OF US HAVING  
ACCESS TO RELIABLE, CLEAN AND  
AFFORDABLE WATER EVERY DAY.  
YOUR EUROPEAN WATER SERVICES  
STRIVE TO DO THIS.



Much EU legislation to better protect people and the planet has been passed or is being processed since the last European Parliament elections - the Drinking Water Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, and legislation covering agriculture, chemicals and pharmaceuticals. One other cornerstone of water legislation – the Water Framework Directive – will need to define its post-2027 ambitions, and policymakers must decide whether to extend its reach to protect water resources. We support such a move. We need a robust 360° strategy at European level to ensure that water services are protected across all areas.

**In our vision for our water's future, we call on the EU to prioritise:**

- 1 Giving water its right place
- 2 Protecting the quality of our water resources
- 3 Addressing climate change
- 4 Enhancing the Circular Economy
- 5 Financing change while keeping water services affordable
- 6 Improving security and resilience and guaranteeing the protection of sensitive information.



## Our water services of tomorrow – Let's make change happen

THE WATER SERVICES SECTOR HAS THE AMBITION TO PLAY A FRONT-RUNNING ROLE IN EUROPE'S JOURNEY TO BUILDING A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL, CIRCULAR, SMART AND RESILIENT SOCIETY.



To achieve this, water services will work with local and EU-level policymakers to maximise the latest innovative technologies and practices, by digitalising their operations, exploiting their full energy efficiency and renewable energy generation potentials, and recovering nutrients and materials from wastewater streams and drinking water treatment.

**These are the five success factors we must achieve to set the sector on the path to change.**

- 1 Enabling regulatory framework
- 2 Ensuring long-term funding and resources
- 3 Attracting a competent workforce and obtaining societal recognition
- 4 Developing innovative solutions and increasing motivation to change
- 5 Avoiding pollution at the source

READ  
MORE  
in our paper  
here.





OUR TEAM



**Gari Villa Landa Sokolova**  
Policy Advisor

**Louise Hoogenhout**  
HR & Finance Manager

**Caroline Greene**  
Senior Communications Manager

**Oliver Loebel**  
Secretary General

**Sébastien Mouret**  
Policy Advisor

## Participation in European Commission Expert and Advisory Groups

Our experts attend the Common Implementation Strategy (cis) meetings of the Water Framework Directive and the expert groups meetings of the Bathing Water Directive, Drinking Water Directive, the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Fertilising Products Regulation.

These fora can be attended exclusively by European umbrella federations, such as EurEau.<sup>1</sup>



### European Commission

#### ADVISORY GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

FP: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

#### BWD EXPERT GROUP

FP: Ronan Kane (Uisce Éireann, Ireland)  
CC: Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)

#### DWD EXPERT GROUP

FP: Eric Chauveheid (Belgaqua, Belgium)  
CC: Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)

#### EXPERT GROUP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU SOIL STRATEGY

FP: Arjen Frentz (Vewin, the Netherlands)  
CC: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

#### FERTILISER REGULATION EXPERT GROUP

FP: Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)  
CC: Arne Haarr (Norsk Vann, Norway)  
CC: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

#### FERTILISER MARKET OBSERVATORY

FP: Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden)

#### UWWTD EXPERT GROUP

FP: Jean-Pierre Silan (Belgaqua, Belgium)  
CC: Michaël Bentvelsen  
(Unie van Watershappen, the Netherlands)  
CC: Gari Villa-Landa (EurEau)

#### ZERO POLLUTION STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM

FP: Dr Claudia Castell Exner (DVGW, Germany)  
CC: Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden)



EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

35

Framework

## WFD CIS

### ATG WATER SCARCITY AND DROUGHT

Dominique Gâtel (FP2E, France)  
Gari Villa-Landa (EurEau)

### WG CHEMICALS

FP: Jo Severyns (Belgaqua, Belgium)  
CC: Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)  
CC: Michaël Bentvelsen (Unie van Waterschappen, the Netherlands)

### WG CHEMICALS SG ON EFFECT-BASED TOOLS

FP: Magali Dechesne (FP2E/France)

### WG DATA INFORMATION AND SHARING

CC: Dominique Gâtel (FP2E, France)  
CC: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

### WG ECONOMICS

Klara Ramm (IGWP, Poland)  
Ignacio Lozano (AEAS, Spain)

### WG ECOSTAT

CC: Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)

### WG FLOODS

FP: Michaël Bentvelsen  
(Unie van Waterschappen, the Netherlands)  
CC: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

### WG GROUNDWATER

FP: Claus Vansgaard (DANVA, Denmark)  
CC: Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)  
CC: Alena Trančíková (AVS, Slovakia)

### STRATEGIC COORDINATION GROUP

FP: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)  
CC: Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)

### WG WATER REUSE

FP: Francesca Pizza (Utilitalia, Italy)  
CC: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)  
CC: Gari Villa-Landa (EurEau)

## ECHA

### COMMITTEE FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

Expert Dr. Karsten Nödler (DVGW-TZW, Germany)  
Representative: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

### COMMITTEE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

Expert: Andreas Hein (DVGW-IWW, Germany)  
Representative: Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

### BIOCIDAL PRODUCTS COMMITTEE

Eduardo Arozamena Ramos (AEAS, Spain)





EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

36

Framework

## OTHER BODIES EUREAU PARTICIPATES IN

### ALL POLICIES FOR A HEALTHY EUROPE INITIATIVE

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

### CHEMSEC BUSINESS GROUP

Anders Finnson (Svenskt Vatten, Sweden)

### EUROPEAN BENCHMARKING CO-OPERATION (BOARD)

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

### HELCOM

Paula Lindell (FIWA, Finland)

### JRC SARS COV-2 MONITORING IN WASTEWATER

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

Communication: Gari Villa Landa (EurEau)

### OECD GOVERNANCE INITIATIVE

Lucia Pitzurra (Utilitalia, Italy)

### OECD ROUNDTABLE ON FINANCING WATER

Mariano Blanco Orozco (AEAS, Spain)

### OECD ROUNDTABLE ON FINANCING WATER

Mariano Blanco Orozco (AEAS, Spain)

Gari Villa-Landa (EurEau)

### TYRE AND ROAD WEAR PARTICLES PLATFORM

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)

### UNICE/WHO PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH

Oliver Loebel (EurEau)





## Participation in research projects

Research projects are an important part of our members' work. We participate on several advisory boards. These are the research projects that we contributed to in 2023 and will continue to work on in 2024.

### Research Projects

#### TRUST

#### CO-UDLABS

#### ZEROPM

#### JRC

(SARS Cov-2 monitoring in wastewater)

#### CIRSEAU CLUSTER

### EurEau Representative

Jan Peter van der Hoek (Vewin, the Netherlands)

Jo Severyns (Belgaqua, Belgium)

Pierre Pieronne (FP2E, France)

Communication: Gari Villa Landa (EurEau)

Sébastien Mouret (EurEau)



Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

38 Framework



EUREAU  
GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY

May 2023



EUREAU  
PRESIDENT &  
COMMITTEE  
CHAIRS

## EurEau Committee Chairpeople



EU1

**Co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Drinking Water**

Gesche Grützmacher; DVGW, Germany, Riina Liikanen; FIWA, Finland, Germany.



EU2

**Co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Wastewater**

John Casey; Uisce Éireann, Ireland, Paula Lindell; FIWA, Finland.



EU3

**Co-Chairpeople of the EurEau Committee on Economics and Legal Affairs**

Brian Murphy; Uisce Éireann, Ireland, Denis Bonvillain; FP2E, France.





EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

**41** Framework

## EurEau member associations & General Assembly Representatives 2024



zukunft  
SEIT 1900  
denken

### AUSTRIA

Raimund Paschinger

ÖVGW – Österreichische Vereinigung für das Gas- und Wasserfach | Austrian Association for Gas and Water

[www.ovgw.at](http://www.ovgw.at)

ÖWAV – Österreichischer Wasser- und Abfallwirtschaftsverband | Austrian Water and Waste Management Association

[www.oewav.at](http://www.oewav.at)



Belgaqua

### BELGIUM

Alain Gillis

Belgaqua – Belgische Federatie voor de Watersector | Fédération Belge du Secteur de l'Eau | Belgian Federation for the Water Sector

[www.belgaqua.be](http://www.belgaqua.be)



### BULGARIA

Vassil Trenev

Съюз на ВиК операторите в Република България | Union of Waste Water Operators in the Republic of Bulgaria

[www.srvikbg.com](http://www.srvikbg.com)

### HGVK

### CROATIA

Andrej Marochini

GVIK – Hrvatska grupacija vodovoda i kanalizacije | Croatian Water and Waste Water Association

[www.hgvik.hr](http://www.hgvik.hr)



Cyprus Water & Sewerage  
Boards Association

### CYPRUS

Sophocles Christodoulides

Σύνδεσμος Συμβουλίων Ύδρευσης-Αποχέτευσης Κύπρου | Cyprus Association of Water and Sewerage Boards

[www.ssyak.com.cy](http://www.ssyak.com.cy)



### CZECH REPUBLIC

Ondřej Beneš

SOVAK CR – Sdružení oboru vodovodů a kanalizací České republiky | Water Supply and Sewerage Association of the Czech Republic

[www.sovak.cz](http://www.sovak.cz)



### DENMARK

Carl-Emil Larsen

DANVA - Dansk Vand og Spildevandsforening | Danish Water and Waste Water Association

[www.danva.dk](http://www.danva.dk)



### ESTONIA

Raili Kärmas

EVEL - Eesti Vee-ettevõtete Liit Estonian | Water Works Association

[www.evel.ee](http://www.evel.ee)



EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

42 Framework



**FIWA**

**FINLAND**

Riku Vahala

FIWA - Vesilaitosyhdistys - Vattenverksförening |  
Finnish Water Utilities Association

[www.vvy.fi](http://www.vvy.fi)

FP2E LES ENTREPRISES  
de l'eau

**FRANCE**

Denis Bonvillain

FP2E - Fédération Professionnelle des Entreprises  
de l'Eau | Professional Federation of Water  
Companies

[www.fp2e.org](http://www.fp2e.org)

**bdew**

Energie. Wasser. Leben.



**GERMANY**

Claudia Castell-Exner

BDEW - Bundesverband der Energie- und  
Wasserwirtschaft | German Association of  
Energy and Water Industries

[www.bdew.de](http://www.bdew.de)

DVGW - Deutscher Verein des Gas- und  
Wasserfaches e.V | German Technical and  
Scientific Association for Gas and Water

[www.dvgw.de](http://www.dvgw.de)



**GREECE**

Markos Sklivaniotis

ΕΝΩΣΗ ΔΗΜΟΤΙΚΩΝ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΕΩΝ  
ΥΔΡΕΥΣΗΣ ΑΠΟΧΕΤΕΥΣΗΣ -  
Ε.Δ.Ε.Υ.Α. ΕΔΕΥΑ -  
Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises  
for Water Supply and Sewage

[www.edeya.gr](http://www.edeya.gr)



**HUNGARY**

Edit Nagy

MaVíz - Magyar Víziközmű Szövetség |  
Hungarian Water Utility Association

[www.maviz.org](http://www.maviz.org)



**SAMORKA**

**ICELAND**

Finnur Beck,  
Samorka

[www.samorka.is](http://www.samorka.is)



Comann Lucht Bainníochta Contae agus Cathrach  
County and City Management Association



**IRELAND**

Brian Murphy, Uisce Éireann

CCMA - The County and City  
Management Association

[www.lgma.ie/en/ccma/](http://www.lgma.ie/en/ccma/)

Uisce Éireann

[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)



**UTILITALIA**

imprese acqua ambiente energia

**ITALY**

Luigi Joseph Del Giacco

Utilitalia - Associazione delle imprese  
idriche energetiche e ambientali |  
Federation of Energy, Water and  
Environmental Services

[www.utilitalia.it](http://www.utilitalia.it)



**LATVIA**

Sandis Dejus

LŪKA | Latvian Water and  
Wastewater Works Association  
(LWwwwa)

[www.lwwwa.lv](http://www.lwwwa.lv)



### LITHUANIA

Brigita Gudonė  
Vandens Jėga | Lithuanian Water  
Services Association  
[www.vandensjega.lt](http://www.vandensjega.lt)



ALUSEAU  
association luxembourgeoise  
des services d'eau

### LUXEMBOURG

Georges Kraus  
ALUSEAU - Association  
Luxembourgeoise des Services d'Eau |  
Luxembourg Association of Water  
Services  
[www.aluseau.lu](http://www.aluseau.lu)



### MALTA

Karl Cilla  
Water Services Corporation  
[www.wsc.com.mt](http://www.wsc.com.mt)



### NORWAY

Ragnhild Aalstad  
Norsk Vann | Norwegian Water  
[www.norskvann.no](http://www.norskvann.no)



### POLAND

Klara Ramm  
IGWP - Izba Gospodarcza Wodociągi  
Polskie | Polish Waterworks Chamber  
of Commerce  
[www.igwp.org.pl](http://www.igwp.org.pl)



### PORTUGAL

Rui Marreiros  
APDA - Associação Portuguesa de  
Distribuição e Drenagem de Águas |  
Portuguese Association of Water  
and Wastewater Services  
[www.apda.pt](http://www.apda.pt)



### ROMANIA

Mircea-Valentin Macri  
ARA - Asociația Română a Apei |  
Romanian Water Association  
[www.ara.ro](http://www.ara.ro)



### SERBIA (associate member)

Dalibor Joknić  
CCIS - Privredna Komora Srbije |  
Chamber of Commerce and  
Industry of Serbia  
[www.pks.rs](http://www.pks.rs)



### SLOVAKIA

Vladimír Jakub  
AVS - Asociácia Vodárenských  
Spoločností | Association of  
Water Companies  
[www.avssr.sk](http://www.avssr.sk)



### SLOVENIA

Iztok Rozman

ZKG - Zbornica komunalnega gospodarstva | Chamber of Public Utilities

[www.komunalna-zbornica.si](http://www.komunalna-zbornica.si)



### SPAIN

Mariano Blanco Orozco

AEAS - Asociación Española de Abastecimientos de Agua y Saneamiento | Spanish Water and Waste Water Association

[www.aeas.es](http://www.aeas.es)

## Svenskt Vatten

### SWEDEN

Pär Dalhielm

Svenskt Vatten | The Swedish Water and Waste Water Association

[www.svensktvatten.se](http://www.svensktvatten.se)



### SWITZERLAND

Mauro Suà

SSIGE / SVGW - Société Suisse de l'Industrie du Gaz et des Eaux | Schweizerischer Verein des Gas- und Wasserfaches | Società Svizzera dell'Industria del Gas e delle Acque | Swiss Gas and Water Industry Association

[www.svgw.ch](http://www.svgw.ch)

VSA - Association suisse des professionnels de la protection des eaux | Verband Schweizer Abwasser- und Gewässerschutzfachleute | Associazione Svizzera dei professionisti della protezione delle acque | Swiss Water Association

[www.vsa.ch](http://www.vsa.ch)



### THE NETHERLANDS

Hans de Groene

UvW - Unie van Waterschappen

[www.dutchwaterauthorities.com](http://www.dutchwaterauthorities.com)

Vewin - Vereniging van waterbedrijven in Nederland

[www.vewin.nl](http://www.vewin.nl)



### UKRAINE (associate member)

Andrii Nikitin

Укрводоканалекологія - Постачальники водних послуг України | Ukrvodokanalecology - Postachalnyky vodnykh posluh Ukrainy | Ukraine's Water Services Providers

[www.ukrvodokanal.in.ua](http://www.ukrvodokanal.in.ua)



### UNITED KINGDOM

Stuart Colville

Water UK

[www.water.org.uk](http://www.water.org.uk)



EurEau

Introduction

Policy work

Beyond Policy

45 Framework

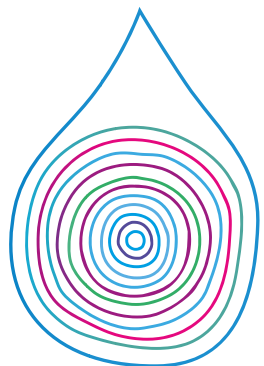
## Associations and map of members

EUREAU IS THE VOICE OF EUROPE'S WATER SECTOR. WE REPRESENT DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER OPERATORS FROM 33 COUNTRIES IN EUROPE, FROM BOTH THE PRIVATE AND THE PUBLIC SECTORS.

Our members are 38 national associations of water services. At EurEau, we bring national water professionals together to agree European water sector positions regarding the management of water quality, resource efficiency and access to water.

With a direct employment of around 476,000 people, the European water sector makes a significant contribution to the European economy.





**EurEau**



## CONTACT

### **EurEau**

The European Federation  
of National Associations of  
Water Services

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