



**EWA workshop**  
**„Water Related EU Directives“**  
16 November 2001  
Celje, Slovenia  
Summary

An international workshop on Water Related EU Directives took place on 16 November 2001 in Celje, Slovenia. It was jointly organised by the European Water Association (EWA) and the Slovenian Water Pollution Control Association (SDZV) together with the annual meeting of the SDZV and meetings of the EWA. Around 70 participants, mainly from Slovenia, followed the lectures.

## **Wastewater Treatment in Slovenia**

The President of the Slovenian Water Pollution Control Association, Prof. Dr. Milenko Roš (SLO) from the National Institute of Chemistry, presented the situation of wastewater treatment in Slovenia. The legislative aspects are laid down in the Environment Protection Act, dating from 1993, and in several decrees that were elaborated between the years 1996 and 2001. 78 of the 116 wastewater treatment plants with a capacity of 1,3 million p.e. do not fulfill the limit values for discharges, e.g. because there is only primary treatment. The limit values already mainly correspond to the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

Prof. Roš also presented the frequency of monitoring and the rehabilitation programmes. These aim to reach the targets of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, the creation of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the cities in certain steps. The deadline for the latest step to be implemented in Slovenia is end of 2015.

## **The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**

The general principles of the 1991 Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive were presented by Philippe Duchène (F). He recapitulated the main aims of the Directive, the target dates for prescribed treatment stages, the requirements for effluents and the criteria for sampling and conformity.

A special focus was given to the technical consequences of the regulations, especially of the obligation to reach a 95% reduction of BOD<sub>5</sub>. A French enquiry had shown that due to this requirement several treatment processes become outdated for more than 2,000 p.e. if used without complementary treatment. Among these outdated processes are conventional activated sludge, chemical treatment and also natural lagooning, the latter despite of the special regulations in the Directive.

## **The Sludge Directive and Results of the EWA Vienna Workshop**

Prof. Dr. Helmut Kroiss (A) from the Vienna University of Technology presented the outcomes of a conference about the Sewage Sludge Directive that was organised by the Austrian Water and Waste Management Association (ÖWAV) and the EWA on 10 and 11 September 2001 in Vienna.

He briefly summarised the lectures and drew the conclusion that every sludge disposal option has to be reliable for the treatment plant operator at any time, as sludge is an unavoidable by-product of fulfilling the legal requirements for wastewater treatment. This reliability depends on several pre-requisites of which not all can be founded on scientific research and risk assessment.

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## European Water Association

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Based on the Vienna conference an EWA task group "Sewage Sludge" was founded which shall critically accompany the European legislation in this sector.

### **The Water Framework Directive**

The Water Framework Directive was presented by Frank Sperling (D), chairman of the EWA task group "Water Framework Directive". His talk concentrated on the contents of the directive. Especially the environmental objectives laid down in article 4 were portrayed, including a description of the rules for less stringent objectives. This included in particular the heavily modified water bodies.

The speaker summarised the ongoing activities for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. Apart from the work of its task group the European Water Association is also involved in several of the official groups that work on the guidance documents for the implementation of the WFD.

### **Directive on the Quality of Water Intended for Human Consumption**

Michel Rapinat from the French water company Générale des Eaux presented the Drinking Water Directive which was adopted in 1998 and will enter into force in December 2003. It will then replace the 18 year old former directive. In contrary to the old directive the new one focuses only on health parameter, as the parameters regulating general environmental aspects - included in the old directive - are now covered by the Water Framework Directive.

The tightened limits are 10 times stricter than the values recommended by the WHO. Revolutionary is the concept of the "domestic network". The level of control and conformity, i.e. the point where the requirements of the directive are to be met, is now the consumer's tap. This might lead to the necessity to remove lead and copper pipes, including the associated costs.

### **Slovenian Implementation of EU Directives in the Water Field**

Gabrijela Grčar, State Undersecretary for Water in the Slovenian Environment Ministry, presented the implementation of the European Directives in the water field into Slovenian legislation. This comprised the existing basic legislation and the adopted strategies which Slovenian law will be changed to transpose which directive.

A detailed timetable for the required steps for the implementation of all important water related EU directives was given. The speaker concluded the presentation with a confrontation of the difficulties and benefits of the implementation European water legislation.

The workshop was one in a series that the EWA has been organising since 1999. Similar workshops took place in Portugal, Hungary, Estonia and France. They aim to present both general information on the EU water legislation and the latest developments in this field. A special focus is regularly given to the situation in Central and Eastern European Countries.

The transparencies used by the speakers are available on the EWA homepage at <http://www.EWAonline.de>, point "Workshops and conferences".