



The year 2000 was a busy period for the association. Concerning the ***influence on the EU legislation***, the EWA was involved in the – still ongoing – legislation process of the revision of the Sludge Directive, where it also provided a comment. In addition, there were several meetings with representatives from the European Commission, DG Environment, Directorates Waste Management and Water Protection, to discuss current issues of water related legislation. The contacts to the European Parliament were strengthened as well.

Several ***interesting and successful workshops*** were held in the year 2000. Two of them, taking place in Budapest (Hungary) and Tallinn (Estonia), concerned the special problems of the implementation of EU water legislation in Central and Eastern European Countries. The third workshop, held in Brussels in October, was a meeting of European experts to discuss the revision of the Sludge Directive and technical aspects of sludge re-use.

The ***Standing Committees*** set up new task groups. The European Technical and Scientific Committee (ETSC) now consists of the task groups “Sludge” (chairman: Helmut Kroiss, Austria), “TOC/BOD/COD” (chairman: John Martin, UK), and “Groundwater” (chairman: Bojan Zmaic, Croatia). The European Affairs Committee (EUC) now comprises two task groups: the task group “Water Framework Directive” (chairman: Frank Sperling, Germany), which includes the former task group “Polluter Pays Principle”, and the task group “Central and Eastern European Countries” (chairman: Károly Kovács).

The EWA journal “European Water Management” is an interesting source of information. In 2000 about 7,000 copies of different issues with a vast range of water related topics were distributed to the subscribers.

The weekly ***e-mail news service*** attracts more and more readers. At the moment, more than 2,300 persons receive this newsletter, issued by the editor-in-chief of the European Water Management, Jan van de Kraats, and the number is still growing.

Much effort was spent on the expansion of the ***internet service*** via the extension of the European Water Pollution Control Network (EWPCN). The range of organisations taking part in this e-network was vastly increased. At the moment, there are two different sites: <http://ewpcn.eu.org/>, which is publicly accessible and mainly gives references to grey literature, and <http://ew.eea.eu.int/>, which is only accessible to registered members and which provides electronic documents that are of interest in the water business. Most of the EWA members were given personal access to this site in 2000. A number of interesting documents were integrated into these two sites.

Concerning the ***EWA memberships***, the association now consists of 29 National Associations from 28 countries and 8 Corporate or Supporting Members. An updated list of the members can be found at the EWA homepage (www.EWAonline.de) and is – with further address details – available at the EWA Secretariat (European Water Association, Alice Wilhelm, Theodor-Heuss-Allee 17, D-53773 Hennef, phone: +49-(0)2242 872-189, fax: +49-(0)2242 872-135, E-mail: wilhelm@atv.de).

Considering the EU enlargement, it is worth mentioning that nearly all acceding countries are already represented with their national associations in the EWA.

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Plans for 2001

For 2001, the secretariat wants to strengthen the **information service** for the EWA members. It is planned to send out - irregularly, but continuously - interesting documents like draft EU Directives, working documents, reports from EWA activities, summaries of EWA workshops etc. to the members.

It is also planned to publish a **Yearbook** which will contain address details and a description of all EWA members, designed to facilitate the contact between EWA members and also to serve as an outward information basis about the association. Moreover, this document shall provide general data about the water situation in the respective EWA member countries.

The year 2001 is going to be a festive one: The EWA will celebrate its **20th anniversary** on 22 June. A special event is planned for the Council meeting in June. On 21 May, another birthday demands attention: the **10th anniversary of the Urban Wastewater Directive**. The EWA plans to organise an event or a conference together with the European Commission.

Among the organisation of **workshops and conferences**, there is a special one to be mentioned. As the 2000 Brussels workshop on Sludge was immensely appreciated by the participants, it is planned to organise a big European conference on the same topic in Vienna in autumn 2001.

*Kirsten Overmann, EWA Technical Assistant
January 2001*