

# EWA Newsletter

29 January 2009 – Issue n°4

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Dear readers,

*With the receipt of this monthly letter you will not only be well informed about the different activities and initiatives of the EWA, but also of the new events organised by our association. We will also be providing you with interesting inside news directly from the EU capital **Brussels**, from the European Commission and the European institutions. The EWA newsletter also gives a good insight into the EWA member associations, into their activities and aims.*

*We hope that you will agree that the EWA newsletter provides expertise information and therefore proves to be of interesting reading, so that you might want to recommend it further to other water professionals and experts.*

*The EWA newsletter service is provided monthly and is free of charge.*

## EWA's Agenda

### EVENTS

#### **10th February 2009**

World Wetlands Day Conference 2009 ([more](#))  
London

#### **11th February 2009**

Water Framework Directive – River Basin Management Plans ([more](#))  
London

#### **16-22 March 2009**

5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum ([more](#))  
Istanbul, Turkey

#### **19-21 March 2009**

Conference on “Modern Methods of Urban Storm water Drainage in Coastal Areas”  
Rijeka, Croatia

#### **22 March 2009**

World Water Day ([more](#))

#### **30 March – 03 April 2009**

Water Berlin ([more](#))

#### **29. - 30. April 2009**

CIWEM's Annual Conference 2009 – Water and the Global Environment ([more](#))

#### **20-29 September 2009**

CIWEM/ASTEE/EWA Conference “Water Framework Directive – Emerging Challenges”

### POLICY AGENDA

#### **28 January 2009:**

Initiation CIS-Science policy interface meeting in Paris. [Zoran Nakic](#) and [Frederic de Hemptinne](#) will represent EWA.

#### **4 February 2009:**

Western Europe and final workshop on Water Vision for Europe which is organized in Brussels within the framework of the European Regional Process for the fifth World Water Forum. [Paul Horton](#) will represent EWA.

**11 March 2009:**

WFD Strategic Coordination Group meeting in Brussels

**12-13 March 2009:**

Conference on Climate Change Adaptation and Water, which is organized in Brussels within the framework of the European Regional Process for the fifth World Water Forum ([more](#))

**16-22 March 2009:**

5th World Water Forum in Istanbul ([more](#)). The European Day session is scheduled on 17 March in the afternoon.

**2-3 April 2009:**

2nd European Water Conference ([first announcement](#))

**29-30 April 2009:**

Meeting in Brussels of the Strategic Steering Group on Climate Change and Water.

**5 - 7 May**

8<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Exhibition –WASTEWATER 2009 ([more](#))  
Pilsen, Czech Republic

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**New! Hot Issues**

**Sludge**

Peter Matthews and Frédéric de Hemptinne had a meeting on January 12 with Mr B. Zambrzycki, the desk officer at DG Environment in charge of the Biowaste Green Paper and the revision of Sludge Directive. Insights from the Commission were collected and will help EWA to elaborate a contribution to the ongoing consultation. EWA was also told that the Commission has recently launched an impact assessment on the revision of the Sludge Directive. A stakeholders' consultation process is planned before summer holyday. In the meantime, the EC Commission would welcome relevant reports and studies. Please contact [Peter Matthews](#) to find out more on what is going on.

**Climate change**

Water directors have decided that, for the 1<sup>st</sup> planning cycle, a "climate check" will have to be performed on the programs of measure. For the next planning cycle, further integration will have to be achieved in order to foster adaptation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycles. Therefore, the Strategic Steering Group on Climate Change and Water has been mandated to develop a guidance document. A workshop was organized in Brussels on 22 January in order to provide input to the chapters 4 and 5. This workshop was aimed at contributing to the chapters 4 "analysis under WFD" and 5 "measures for adaptation". A series of guiding principles were discussed and, accordingly, will be further developed. The group leaders called the participants to provide concrete examples on which case studies might be elaborated. Please contact [Paul Horton](#) to find out more on what is going on.

**Water Vision for Europe**

The European Water Partnership is organizing on 4th February in Brussels the Western Europe and final workshop on Water Vision for Europe. This will discuss the latest version of the Water vision (document). This is separate from the European Regional Document. The aim is to propose how the water sector will look in 30 years time. The EWP launched it at the European Parliament last year and it is a living document and there is an opportunity to influence it to some degree. Please contact Paul Horton to find out more on what is going on.

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**EWA's Activities**

**EWA strengthen cooperation with UNW-DPC**

On the 26 January 2009, representatives of UN-Water Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), the German Water, Wastewater and Waste Association (DWA) and the European Water Association (EWA) met in Hennef to discuss their further cooperation.

EWA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNW-DPC in May last year during the IFAT 2008. The two parties agreed to support each other through common activities and courses on capacity development and best practice. During the meeting the parties discussed future possible joint activities and the next meeting, which will be in March 2009.

### **EWA part of the discussions for the Europe's input for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul**

During the past couple of months EWA was represented in the European Regional Process for the 5<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Istanbul by [Paul Horton](#), chairman of the EWA Climate Change working group. The process is coordinated by the European Water Partnership (EWP). The EWA is constantly giving comments, as a stakeholder, on the draft chapters of the European Regional Document.

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## **Highlights**

### **Adaptation to climate change**

The White paper will set up a conceptual framework following principles and a phased approach. The intention is that Phase 1 (2009-2012) will lay the ground work for the preparation of a more comprehensive adaptation strategy for the EU to be implemented during phase 2 commencing in 2012. Phase 1 will focus on four pillars of action:

- building a solid knowledge base,
- integrating adaptation into key policy areas;
- employing a combination of policy instruments (market-based instruments, guidelines, public-private partnerships...)
- strengthening international co-operation on adaptation.

The White Paper is expected to be released by the end of March 2009. In the meantime, the European Environment Agency (assisted by Ecologic) is working on a report on good practice measures for climate change adaptation in river basins based on Member States' experience (ready summer 2009).

### **Pesticides**

An agreement between the Council and the Parliament has been reached on a regulation on placing plant protection products on the market as well as a directive on the sustainable use of pesticides. The general idea is:

- production and licensing of pesticides: A positive list of approved "active substances" is to be drawn up at EU level. Pesticides will then be licensed at national level on the basis of this list. Certain highly toxic chemicals will be banned unless exposure to them would in practice be negligible. If a substance is needed to combat a serious danger to plant health, it may be approved for up to five years even if it does not meet the above safety criteria. Manufacturers and pesticide users will benefit because Member States will be able to license pesticide products at national level or through mutual recognition. The new legislation will only gradually supersede existing EU law. Pesticides that can be placed on the market under current legislation will remain available until their existing authorisation expires. The agreement with Council was based on a scientific assessment by the Swedish Chemicals Agency that only around 22 dangerous substances are likely to be removed from the market as a result of the new safety criteria.
- Reducing pesticide use and managing it better: The principle of Integrated Pest Management is laid down, i.e. the promotion of non-chemical pest control methods such as crop rotation, to be used wherever possible as alternatives to pesticides. Member States must adopt National Action Plans for reducing "risks and impacts" of pesticide use on human health and the environment, including timetables and targets for use reduction. MEPs dropped their demand for a specific reduction target of 50% for chemical substances of particular concern, to help secure a deal with the Council. Aerial crop spraying will in general be banned, albeit with exceptions subject to approval by the authorities. No spraying will be allowed in close proximity to residential areas. Member States must take measures to protect the aquatic environment and drinking water supplies from the impact of pesticides. These are to include "buffer zones" around bodies of water and

"safeguard zones" for any surface and groundwater used for drinking water. There must also be protected areas along roads and railways. The use of pesticides must be minimised or prohibited in specific areas used by the general public or by vulnerable groups, such as parks, public gardens, sports and recreation grounds, school grounds and playgrounds and in the close vicinity of healthcare facilities. New rules are introduced on the training of pesticide users and salespeople, on handling and storage, on information and awareness-raising and on the inspection of pesticides application equipment.

The directive must be implemented by the Member States by early 2011. (see the [EP background document](#))

### **Review of the IPPC Directive**

The EP environment committee backed a Commission proposal to update and strengthen existing rules, but inserted new provisions for introducing EU-wide emission limits, greater flexibility in granting permits, excluding small plants, and better informing the public.

The proposed overhaul aims to reduce the administrative burden on industry and public authorities, by simplifying and clarifying the current rules. This entails recasting and merging seven EU directives, including IPPC, into one.

- **New emission limit values:** The committee agreed in principle to more stringent emission limit values proposed by the Commission for specific categories of combustion plants and for pollutants such as SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, dust and CO. At the same time, to give the authorities that grant permits more flexibility, MEPs say that emission limits laid down for individual installations must be based on best available techniques, but adaptable to take account of local circumstances.
- **ncluding medium-sized combustion plants:** MEPs broadly agree with a Commission proposal to bring medium-sized combustion plants (between 20 and 50 MW), within the rules, but want to exclude installations (below 50 MW) which operate for no more than 500 hours /year. MEPs also changed the annexes, which set specific permit conditions for types of industrial activity.
- **Reducing the administrative burden and better informing the public:** Other amendments inserted by the committee aim to reduce administrative burdens, relax rules on reporting and inspections, and improve the information to the public.

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## **Members News**

### **The Austrian Water and Waste Management Association (ÖWAV) celebrates its 100 Anniversary**

The ÖWAV was established in 1909. Under the motto "Future Lounge", The Austrian Association invited young scientists between 16 and 35 years to send their visionary future scenarios for the year 2050 in the category "Water/Wastewater". The best scenarios will be presented during the celebration of the 100 Anniversary on the 18 June in Vienna. ([more](#))

### **BULAQUA 2009**

The Bulgarian Water Association (BWA) organises on 27 and 28 May 2009 the third international conference BULAQUA. The conference considers issues in the water supply and the wastewater disposal infrastructure of Bulgaria. Abstracts are welcomed by the 28 February 2009.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> International DWA Symposium on Water Resources Management**

The German Water, Wastewater and Waste Association (DWA) organises the second International Symposium on Water Resources Management during WATER BERLIN 2009. The Symposium will include many sessions with different topics. You can download the programme [here](#)

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## **Publications**

### **Climate change and water**

CLIMATEWATER is a FP7 research led by Vituki (Hungary) that started in November 2008 and will be ended in October 2011. It will identify all adaptation strategies that were developed in Europe and also globally for handling the impacts of global climate changes on water resources and aquatic ecosystems. Research needs in the field of climate impact on the water cycle and water users will be identified with special regard to enable the ranking of adaptation action in the light of the magnitude of impact on water resources and the urgency of the action needed. The most important output of the project will be the identification of gaps that would hinder the implementation of the EU water policy in combating climate impacts on water. ([more](#))

### **Environmental Crime**

Directive 2008/99/EC on the protection of the environment through criminal law ([more](#))

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

### **New DWA Publications in English**

“Framework for Planning of Real Time Control of Sewer Networks” ([more](#))

“Process Analysis Equipment for Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Carbon in Wastewater Treatment Systems” ([more](#))

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### **Editorial team**

[Frédéric de Hemptinne](#)

[Boryana Hristova](#)