

EWA Newsletter

28 November 2008 – Issue n°2

[EWA's Agenda](#)

[EWA's Activities](#)

[Highlights](#)

[Members News](#)

[Publications](#)

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

EWA EVENTS

27-28 November 2008

Workshop on Capacity Development in the Water Sector

Sofia, Bulgaria ([more](#))

29. - 30. January 2009

Water Efficiency in Urban Areas Concepts, Technologies, Socio Economics ([more](#))

Würzburg, Germany

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](#))

June 2009

Workshop on water services benchmarking

Hennef, Germany

20-29 September 2009

CIWEM/ASTEE/EWA Conference "Water Framework Directive – Emerging Challenges"

POLICY AGENDA

24 – 25 November 2008

Water Directors meeting

Strasbourg, France

1-12 December 2008

The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznań ([more](#))

22 December 2008

Deadline for Member States to establish groundwater threshold values

Deadline for Member States to start public consultation on RBMPs

8 January 2009

Deadline for submitted a proposal under the FP7 - Environmental research - call for proposals ([more](#))

11 March 09

WFD strategic coordination group meeting in Brussels

16-22 March 09

5th World Water Forum in Istanbul ([more](#))

[Back to top](#)

EWA's Activities

The 4th EWA Brussels Conference – another successful event organised on the 4th of November 2008 – The conference on topic “European Water Management and the Economic Aspects of the Water Framework Directive” opened Dr Richard Seeber – EP rapporteur on water scarcity. He revealed in his speech the needs to reduce the administrative costs and the value of hidden benefits. The conference continued with the presentation of Dr Helmut Blöch, Deputy head of the Water Unit at DG Environment, who presented the main provisions of the WFD on economics and reviewed the achievements made under the WFD common implementation strategy. The conference continued in two sessions: session 1: economic evaluation for decision making and session 2: economic instruments for the management of water issues.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion including all the speakers and moderated by Mr Peter Cook – EWA president. Many efforts still lay ahead to fully enforce the WFD economic ranging from the need to streamlining high quality data to the necessity of carrying out methodology developments and gaining field understanding.

Workshop on Capacity Development in the Water Sector

On the 27 and 28 of November the European Water Association in cooperation with the Bulgarian Water Association (BWA) and the German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste (DWA) organised a workshop on the capacity Development in the Water Sector. Capacity development is the key to development effectiveness. The presentations were given both in Bulgarian and English. The experience from Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, and Germany were presented during the workshop. More than 70 participants joined the event and many of the representatives of the water supply company of Bulgaria were present.

A key presentation was given by the German representative of DWA – Dr. Rüdiger Heidebrecht who presented the 60 years experience of the German association.

[Back to top](#)

Highlights

Water Information System Europe – WISE

A new component for the WISE portal was presented at the SPI-water final conference in Brussels on October 30-31. It provides a single point to access and share all the knowledge which comes out of the implementation of EU funded projects and is relevant to the implementation of the WFD. These projects are not only research projects but also LIFE, INTERREG, COST projects. The whole can be viewed as a sort of consolidated experience on water management. It is also possible to enter other contribution that is not related to a project (i.e. report, article). Every actor can contribute to feed the portal. was aimed at launching a new component for the WISE portal ([more](#))

Adopted directives:

At the end of October 2008, the Council approved 3 important directives that are now going to be published in the official journal:

The WFD daughter directive on environmental quality standards

The Waste Framework Directive which has direct impact on sewage sludge. It provides for increased clarity over the legal definition of waste and a new five-step hierarchy between management options

The Environmental Crime Directive, which requires Member States to treat as criminal offences certain activities that breach EU environmental legislation. Significant damage to the environment caused by unlawful emissions to the air,

water or soil, the unlawful operation of dangerous activities (including manufacture or handling of nuclear materials) or the unlawful treatment of waste will also be considered criminal offences.

Pesticides

The Environment Committee voted on Wednesday 5 November on new legislation governing the production, licensing and use of pesticides. MEPs confirmed that certain toxic chemicals will be banned, except where there is a serious danger to plant health. They also argued that the EU should not be divided into three pesticide licensing zones. In addition, Member States will have to meet quantitative targets for reducing the volume of pesticides used.

Prior to this vote, on 14 October, the European Voice newspaper hosted a debate in Brussels to discuss the question: 'What role for pesticides in sustainable agriculture?'. It gave rise to a heated discussion on the most contentious points of the proposed legislation (more).

Implementation of EU law

The Commission has adopted on November 18 a Communication on implementing European Community Environmental Law (document) which sets out plans to improve the implementation of the European Union's environmental protection laws, including in the water sector. The Communication stresses the need for close cooperation with Member States to ensure that national implementing rules are correct and adopted on time, and that shared goals are effectively achieved. Where serious problems persist – such as tolerance of illegal landfills or multiple failures to treat urban waste-water – the Commission will favour strategic legal action over a piecemeal approach.

REACH

On October 28, ECHA has released a first list of 15 substances in the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern (SVHC) for authorization (press release). This is a procedure for this type of substance and goes in parallel with the registration procedure. It will lead in June 2009 on a decision to the substances to be authorized and reviewed for possible substitution.

[Back to top](#)

Members News

WASSER BERLIN (March 30 - April 3, 2009) offers the attractive combination of a professional trade show and an international congress program. This event brought together all relevant players from the political, scientific and technological communities, provided information to the general public, reported on the current status of scientific research, and presented potential solutions to modern-day problems. Over the past forty years, the WASSER BERLIN Congress has continued to gain importance. Numerous ties with partner associations and the active involvement of European and international organizations have given the event a much higher profile and made it more attractive to the water industry. Water management specialists from the public sector and private industry, engineers, building and civil engineering experts specializing in well-sinking, waterworks, pipeline construction and all other relevant industries; representatives of national and international organizations, procurement experts, water management professionals, scientists and representatives from associations and institutions; political decision-makers and high-ranking administrators. For further information: Kirstein@dwa.de or visit the [website](#).

The INTERNATIONAL FORUM which takes place every two years serves the exchange of experts of internationally engaged businesses and institutions for water, wastewater and waste projects abroad. Flanking strategies and measures of political and financial institutions demonstrate the sense of direction of engagement abroad. The presentation and discussion of concrete projects of German businesses abroad as well as the presentation of the water/wastewater situation by foreign speakers indicate a spectrum of possible German international activities. At the end of the technical papers the experts, in evening "fireside chats", can exchange ideas and inform young engineering talent about the possibilities for careers abroad. The 4th International Forum is in February 3 – 4, 2009 in Fulda. For further information: martens@dwa.de.

Publications

Europe' water at the crossroad

In line with ongoing activities in Member States to prepare the river management plan and public consultation, environmental NGOs have tabled a set of 5 headline indicators ([document](#)) against which they plan to measure the EU 27's performance on the issue:

Transparent and publicly owned water management
Reduced wastage and using water well
More space for living rivers
Healthy, safe water for people and nature
Visionary and adaptive water policies.

Agriculture & climate change

DG Agriculture published on its web site a set of documents that illustrate its views on the impact of climate change on agriculture and its vision on how this should be dealt with ([more](#)). These are very interesting thinking but it fails to recognise the importance of water issues and to address these in a consistent way.

NEwater

NEwater is a FP6 research project that is aimed at developing new approaches to adaptative water management under uncertainty. The final conference took place in Sevilla on 17-19 November. The main deliverables are available from the project web site ([more](#)) while scientific articles are also available on-line from the Ecology & Society Journal: Social Learning and Water Resources Management ([more](#)).
Mechanisms of Resilience in Common-pool Resource Management Systems ([more](#))

Scenes 3 newsletter

The SCENES project 'Water Scenarios for Europe and for Neighbouring States' is a 4-year FP6 research project that started in late 2006. The aim is to develop and analyse a set of comprehensive scenarios of Europe's freshwater futures up to 2025 ([more](#)).

Underground transboundary aquifers

UNESCO is publishing the first-ever world map of shared aquifers to coincide with the submission to the General Assembly of the United Nations on 27 October 2008 of a draft Convention on Transboundary Aquifers ([maps](#))

New publication in EWA online journal E-WATER

The new publication of the EWA online journal E-WATER you can find [here](#).

[Back to top](#)
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