



PRESS RELEASE

1/2004

EWA Council meets in Oslo

Incoming EWA President Jiri Wanner

Haakon Thaulow, President of European Water Association (EWA), and the host of EWA's Annual Meeting in Oslo June 10-12th, is delighted to announce that Professor Jiri Wanner from the University of Prague of the Czech Republic will become as from May 2005 the next EWA President.

Seventeen different National Associations of EWA took part at its Council Meeting in Oslo. The meeting of the member associations was accompanied by high focused workshops on subjects related to Central East European Countries and the Water Framework Directive.

The EWA Council also elected members of the Management Committee from May 2005: Professor Johannes Pinnekamp, Germany, was elected as Honorary Treasurer from 2005, Mr Jean-Philippe Torterotot of France as a new member, and Mr Jürg Meyer from Switzerland was reelected.



EWA Workshops

The Council discussed various activities and plans for workshops on Pilot River Basins related to the Water Framework Directive, Floods and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. EWA will be represented with its own conference at Aquatech and at IFAT 2005. Shortly, at the end of June, the first IFAT China will be taking place in Shanghai with EWA as a supporting association..

Information from Brussels

Dr. Sigurd van Riesen as Secretary General of EWA informed the Council about the current activities in Brussels. In meetings with Helmut Blöch, the Deputy Head of the unit for water of the European Commission, EWA was informed about the current implementation system CIS of the Water Framework Directive, and it was stressed the importance of the Commission supporting the activities for flood prevention. The Council is in favour that the new Sludge Directive of the EU should be established as soon as possible. Very constructive proposals have been sent from EWA to the Commission.

European Water Quality

Haakon Thaulow, the current President of EWA, highlighted the great importance of the wastewater



treatment to achieve good water quality. The Council visited the new Bekkelaget Wastewater Treatment plant in Oslo. The plant is built in caverns with halls of 200 m lengths, with removal rates of 98 % for BOD and 94 % for phosphorous and 68 % for nitrogen, and is very effective. The treatment plant is equipped with sand filters and driers for digested sludge. Ninety percent of sewage sludge is used in agriculture.

The Council regrets that the Bathing Water Directive is still in discussion between the Environmental Council and the European Parliament since December 2003. The view of EWA is that it is very worthwhile to have a new effective Bathing Water Directive as soon as possible. The Council expressed its concern over the water quality situation in North Sea, the Baltic and considerable parts of the Mediterranean Sea still suffering from severe eutrophication. The council also noted that that the total nitrogen coming from urban wastewater sources can contribute up to 50 % of the entire impact.

Denmark, Germany and Austria were in 1998 already close to comply with the Urban Waste Water Directive, and it is very important that the other countries follow. The Council regrets that 25 cities,



some of them very large, are still without any wastewater treatment. Also the collection system in Europe has to be improved, as there are countries in the Mediterranean which only showed a compliance rate of less than 50 % for sufficient collection. Following the report of the European Commission the wastewater treatment situation in Europe is still very unsatisfactory. EWA will through its large network of water experts do its best to contribute to improve the situation.

Further information:

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European Water Association



The European Water Association (EWA) is an independent non-governmental and non-profit making organisation dealing with the management and improvement of the water environment. It was founded on 22 June 1981 as the European Water Pollution Control Association. The scope of the Association was enlarged in 1999 with the change of name to the European Water Association.

It is one of the major professional associations in Europe that covers the whole water sector, wastewater as well as drinking water and water related waste. With member associations from nearly all European countries EWA consists of most European Union Member States, including all countries from Central and Eastern Europe which joined the European Union on 1 May 2004. Other European countries represented within the EWA are Croatia, Romania, Ukraine, Serbia and Montenegro, Norway, and Switzerland.

The aim of EWA is to provide a forum for the discussion of key technical and policy issues affecting the growing European region. This is done through conferences, workshops, meetings and special working groups of experts all organised on an international basis together with regular publications.

EWA informs its members on the development of EU legislation and standardisation and seeks to influence the drafting when appropriate. It has close contacts with the European Commission (DG Environment), the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Environment Agency (EEA) and the European Parliament.

Through this exchange of knowledge the objective of EWA is to contribute to sustainable water management, a safe water supply and the protection of the water environment.

Today, EWA consists today of about 25 European national associations each representing professionals and technicians for wastewater and water utilities, academics, consultants and contractors as well as a growing number of corporate member firms and enterprises. EWA thus represents about 55,000 professional individuals working in the broad field of water management.