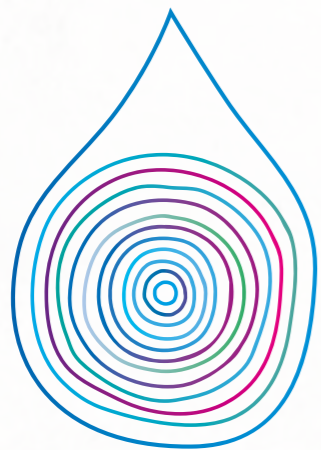


EurEau ANNUAL REVIEW 2017



EurEau





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Introduction from the President

As the EU institutions prepare for reviewing Europe's water legislation, so do we.

Over the next five years, we will have the opportunity to significantly improve the legislation that protects our water resources. The legislation in place has served us well and now we can further it, ensuring that we always have access to safe, clean and wholesome water.

We worked on a wide range of key issues, from fertilisers to pharmaceuticals, reuse, recovery of costs and resource protection. We proved that water has many facets, beyond the obvious.

We continue to work with our partners in the EU institutions, NGOs and manufacturers to shape robust water policies that protect our health, environment and society. I know from meeting with high level policy makers in the EU institutions that our expertise is respected and valued.

But our success is down to the dedicated professionals who make up our membership. Our strength and reputation relies on the expertise and experience that you bring. You, together with the EurEau Secretariat, make others aware of us and our positions, so thank you for all your hard work this year. I look forward to working alongside you in 2017.

Speaking of 2017, it promises to be an exciting year for our sector with the revision of the Drinking Water Directive, proposals due for reusing water and preparations going ahead for the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive evaluation.

Everybody knows that 'Water Matters'. We will continue to work with our members and stakeholders to shape the EU legislation that protects our water resources and sets the framework for sustainable, reliable and robust water services, now and for future generations.

Bruno Tisserand
EurEau President





Out of the many topics we addressed, here are four that were especially pertinent.

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY



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What is the Circular Economy Package?

In December 2015, the European Commission adopted the Circular Economy Package (CEP) to help European businesses and consumers use and recycle resources more sustainably. The proposed actions will bring benefits for both the environment and the economy by extracting the maximum value and use from raw materials, products and waste, while promoting energy savings.

The first deliverable for the CEP was the revised Fertiliser Regulation, which opens the European market to organic fertilisers. The other important piece of legislation will be the legislative proposal for minimum quality requirements for water reuse which is due in late 2017.

Why is it important for EurEau?

EurEau members strive to implement the circular economy principles in their operations.

Water is a precious. Waste water is a source of secondary materials, energy and can be reused.

We strongly encouraged including the recovery of nutrients through the revision of the Fertiliser Regulation, and the measures regarding water reuse. We are working to establish the criteria that would qualify struvite and sewage sludge ash to become input material for fertiliser production.

Sewage sludge is currently excluded as an input material for compost and digestate from the European Commission's proposal. We are working with the European Parliament to remove this exclusion. It is important for the water sector that all disposal options are open. This will allow sewage sludge to be disposed of according to local needs and requirements. The agricultural use of sewage sludge in certain countries needs to be maintained but if the quality of the sludge is good enough and it is possible to produce compost or digestate, these products should access the internal market. This would give the European water sector a strong signal to invest in the recovery of nutrients from sewage sludge.

The proposal of addressing water scarcity through the reuse of treated waste water in safe and cost-effective conditions is also a major step to maintaining water resources for all. It is a good tool to support water

reuse projects and raise the image of reclaimed water with the end-users by ensuring its quality and safety. In June 2016, the European Commission adopted the guidelines on water reuse to help decision makers to implement water reuse projects safely. While the document is complex, we are pleased that the main steps towards implementing reuse projects at European level are now set out in one place.

The second part of the European Commission's Action Plan is the development of minimum quality standards for water reuse in irrigation and groundwater recharge. These minimum quality requirements are under development by the Joint Research Centre (JRC) and should result in a legislative proposal. It is important that these requirements guarantee both safety for human health and the environment and the economic feasibility of water reuse. There is no obligation to use them if there is no water scarcity.

