

# 17th EWA Hybrid Brussels Conference

## Blue Initiatives in the Green Deal

**Date and time** 8 November 2022 at 10 am CET  
Vivaqua, Brussels

**Registration fee** face-to-face: 175/195 EUR (member/non-member)  
online: 144/160 EUR (member/non-member)

### Registration and payment

“Climate change is already affecting Europe in various forms, depending on the region. It can lead to biodiversity loss, forest fires, decreasing crop yields and higher temperatures. It can also affect people’s health.”\* It has been seen in the recent past that floods and droughts are more and more affecting European Union Members States and impact all citizens and all economic sectors. The 17th EWA Brussels Conference will focus on the **Blue Initiatives in the Green Deal** and highlight the importance of transdisciplinary cooperation to guarantee a reliable and high qualitative access to water for all across the European Union.

After an introduction on the ongoing and new EU Water Initiatives at the European level by DG Environment, session 1 on **Water and Soil Protection** will show which strategy the European Union has

chosen to achieve the objective of the Green Deal. And what it means for the water sector. It will focus on providing an overview of the current situation and regulation before discussing the impact of the EU Soil Strategy on water and the use of sewage sludge. During this session, the European Environment Agency, the European Investment Bank and the DG Environment will present their views on that topic.

Session 2 on **Floods and Droughts in Europe** will have a look at the past extreme events in Europe before discussing the necessary territorial management to improve the water availability. In this session, DG Research will present its view on drought prevention research as well as researcher from across the EU.

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Time	Topic / Activity	Speaker
10:00 – 10:05	Welcome address	Raymond Erpelding, EWA President
10:05 – 10:35	Ongoing and new EU Water Initiatives	Veronica Manfredi, Director, Zero Pollution, DG Environment, European Commission
<b>Session 1: Water &amp; Soil protection</b>		<b>Moderation: Peter Gammeltoft</b>
10:35 – 10:55	Condition of the European Water Bodies: what must happen to achieve good status?	Dr Riyong Kim, Head of Programme Biodiversity and Ecosystems (BES), European Environment Agency
10:55 – 11:15	EU Soil Strategy 2030: impact on the water sector	Andrea Vettori, Deputy Head of Unit Land use and management, DG Environment, European Commission
11:15 – 11:45	Coffee break	
11:45 – 12:45	Impact of the EU soil strategy on water and the use of sewage sludge (Impulse+discussion/Q&A)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impulse: Evaluation of the Sewage Sludge Directive</li> <li>• Impulse: (Good) examples from different countries</li> <li>• Impulse: EU Taxonomy for sustainable activities: Milestone for Water &amp; Soil Protection?</li> <li>• Panel discussion</li> </ul>	Keir McAndrew, WSP Christian Minelli, WAREG Juan Bofill, Senior Water Engineer, European Investment Bank
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch	
<b>Session 2: Floods and Droughts in Europe</b>		<b>Moderation: Dr. Károly Kovacs</b> <b>Chairman HWA</b>
13:45 – 14:15	Consequences of extreme weather events for cities in Europe	Prof. Patrick Willems, KU Leuven
14:15 – 14:45	Consequences from July 2021 flooding on flood risk management	Prof. Dr.-Ing. Holger Schüttrumpf, RWTH Aachen
14:45 – 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 16:20	Territorial management to improve the water availability (Impulse+discussion/Q&A)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impulse: Droughts in Europe – prevention research</li> <li>• Impulse: Water efficiency in agriculture</li> <li>• Impulse: Wastewater Reuse</li> <li>• Panel discussion</li> </ul>	Pavel Misiga, Head of Unit Circular economy & biobased System, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission, Brussels Julio Berbel, University of Cordoba Prof. Dr. Thomas Wintgens, RWTH Aachen
16:25 – 16:30	Conclusions Invitation to Network	Wendy Francken, EWA Vice-president Raymond Erpelding, EWA President
End of the Conference		

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