

A common vision for European Water Innovation

March 2010



Invitation to WssTP General Assembly

Members of the WssTP are invited to meet on the 27th of April during the General Assembly. The Assembly will take place at the Hotel Novotel in Lille, France. The PCC, MSMG and Board meetings will take place the same day as the General Assembly.

The Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) will also be presented by Mike Farrimond on the third day of the conference on "Integrated River Basin Management under the Water Framework Directive", organised by the European Commission.

The Chair of WssTP, Diane d'Arras, will open the WFD Conference Dinner on the evening of Monday, 26th April.

For more information concerning the venue and the programme of our Assembly please [click here](#) or feel free to contact us.

Water & Agriculture Pilot Workshop



Buffer strips and zones at the interface between water and agriculture

The WssTP Pilot Programme "Water and Agriculture" met on February 23rd in Brussels, Belgium. This workshop entitled "Buffer Strips and Buffer Zones – Targeting Water Quality" was co-organised by EUREAU and Copa-Cogeca, representing respectively the EU water sector and the EU agricultural sector.

Buffer strips and zones, imposing farming restrictions on agricultural, were explained in the light of the European legislation framework. The links to the Water Framework Directive, the Common Agricultural Policy, and the recently adopted pesticide legislation were highlighted respectively by speakers of DG Env, DG Agri and DG Sanco. Different initiatives were then presented by experts to illustrate the way technology and research can support farmers to protect the water quality. The meeting was the opportunity for various stakeholders to share their points of view. This exchange served as a starting point towards more discussion to look for win-win situations between farmers and water utilities.

To consult the presentations available on line please [click here](#)

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Intergroup on water

The EU and the water MDG

The second meeting of the Intergroup on Water was held at the European Parliament in Brussels, on the 24th of February. This meeting organized with the support of Eureau was an opportunity to focus on the EU strategy to achieve the Millennium Development Goal on water, which aims to halve

the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015. The President of the Intergroup, MEP Dr. Richard SEEBER welcomed the participants and introduced the key note speakers. The new EU ACP water facility was presented by Luis Riera Figueras, Director at DG Development, and Carla Osorio, Head of Water and Energy Facility Unit at DG AIDCO. Two hundred million euros have been allocated to this new water facility under the 10th European Development Fund. The needs for research, capacity building and integration of development programmes in national development strategy were then further discussed by a dialogue between MEP, EC members and the numerous attendees of the meeting. It was the opportunity for Peter PEX, Vewin European affairs expert and WssTP member, to raise awareness about the need to consider R&D on MDG issues in the strategy in order to reach the MDG's two challenging targets.



The report on WssTP strategy to address MDG related research is now available on demand at the WssTP.

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Focus on Spain:

Spain and the EU

Since the 1st of January 2010 Spain has taken on the presidency of the council of the European Union, which it will maintain until the end of June. Water management is defined according to the Spanish presidency programme as a key issue of the adaptation to Climate Change.

Spain and Research

For over two decades now, the Spanish government has committed itself to investing in R&D activities. Spain is already harvesting the fruits of its efforts. Spanish scientists write the seventh highest number of articles published in international journals. Spain is a leader in health research, biotechnology, solar and wind energy production and desalination.



A Project aimed to Prepare

The large collaborative project PREPARED: Enabling Change, was



accepted for funding by the European Commission within the Seventh Framework Programme on the 29th of May 2009. The PREPARED project originates from the WssTP Thematical Working Group on Sustainable Water Management in Urban Areas. Many of the project partners in PREPARED worked as experts in this TWG.

The project is built around a large number of city utilities and the challenges they face as a result of climate change.

To read more, please [click here](#)

To consult the WssTP scientific publication on Sustainable Water Management inside and around large urban areas, please [click here](#)

For more information, please contact adriana.hulsmann@kwrwater.nl
Source material, [click here](#)



Scientific focus:

The "Energy Factory", seeing wastewater as a resource



During the last WssTP workshop of the Task Force "Water and Energy" held in Brussels, on the 11th of February, Jan-Evert van Veldhoven from the Water Board De Dommel, the Netherlands, presented the Dutch water boards "Energy Factory" programme to develop energy positive wastewater treatment plants. The project is based on realisation, R&D and marketing pillars.

For more technical information, please [click here](#)

More information about the Energy Factory please [click here](#)

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Spain and Water

One key area where Spain is also a leader is water management. Due to its long experience of drought in semi-arid climatic conditions, Spain has indeed developed adaptation technologies such as desalination and strategies towards a better management of its scarce water resources such as traditional water courts.

Spain and the WssTP

With 9 organizations registered as corporate members of the WssTP, Spain is the most represented country on the platform. The joint workshop of the Task Force "Climate Change" and the Pilot Programme "Hydroclimatic Events" will be held on the 8th of April 2010 in Barcelona, Spain.

For more information and to consult the list of members from Spain please [click here](#)



New! WssTP Press Corner!

The WssTP has launched a new corner of information to follow up on international news.

- Political and business leaders met in Helsinki on the 10th of February in order to stick to promises concerning the clean-up of the Baltic Sea and to boost efforts in the 15 priority areas of the EU'S proposal...
- Authors of a study in the Journal of Water and Health estimate that about 25% of EU households will have a lead pipe meaning that a presence of lead in drinking water is possible...

To read more on these topics and similar issues go straight to WssTP's new website page: [Press Corner](#)

Agenda WssTP

March 15th

Workshop on "Urban Areas", Pilot Programme Urban Areas - Amsterdam, The Netherlands

March 16th

Board meeting in Amsterdam, The Netherlands

April 8th and 9th

- "Climate Change" and "Hydro-Climatic Event" Workshop, Barcelona, Spain
- "Sensors and Monitoring" Workshop Montpellier, France

April 20th (TBC)

Pilot Programme Water and Industry Brussels, Belgium

SAVE THE DATE
April 26th – 28th 2010
Annual General Assembly
In Lille, France

For more events:
www.wsstp.eu/content/default.asp?PageId=270&LanguageId=0