

A common vision for European Water Innovation

February 2010



A New Commission for Europe

On February 9th 2010, the European Parliament accepted the new European Commission led by President José Manuel Barroso. The votes of 488 legislators in favour of the 26 new Commissioners approved the new EU executive office to push their new responsibilities though four months behind schedule. The new Commission consists of 18 men and 9 women representing each country of the European Union.

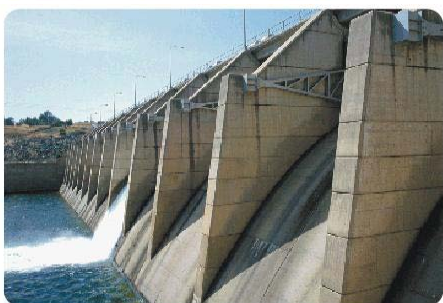


For Research and Innovation, **Máire Geoghegan-Quinn** was nominated as Ireland's former representative to the European Court of Auditors. This is the first time that a portfolio on “innovation” has been created underlying its future importance for the new Barroso commission.

During her hearing, Mrs Geoghegan-Quinn pledged to leverage structural funds for research. She argued that structural funds should help countries of Central and Eastern Europe to narrow the gap in investment for research and innovation. She also reminded us that the review of FP7 would be crucial, particularly pointing out the need for simpler procedures and better communication, to attract SMEs and to develop private and public sector. She already announced that the review of FP7 would be carefully led to make immediate changes and to improve FP8.

She replaces **Janez Potočnik**, from Slovenia and former Commissioner for Research, who was reappointed as Commissioner for Environment. This change should strengthen cooperation between the two directorates. During his hearing, M. Potočnik argued for a stronger and tougher implementation of EU green laws. He underlined that, as the year of biodiversity is starting, Europe could do better in this area. The Research Programmes on “Climate Change” and “Air” have however been moved to the new DG on “Climate action” led by **Connie Hedegaard**, the Danish Minister for the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

Sources and Links: <http://www.euractiv.com/en/priorities/new-european-commission>
<http://www.euractiv.com/en/future-eu/european-parliament-gives-green-light-barroso-ii>



Water and Energy

The first steps towards R&D recommendations to EC

The WssTP Task Force “Water and Energy” met on February 11th in Brussels, Belgium. The workshop was led by the new appointed leader of the Task-Force, Steven Kaye of Anglian Water. There were 36 participants from 10 countries to explore the water and energy nexus. This workshop was an opportunity to take the first steps towards the development of a roadmap of R&D opportunities to submit to the European Commission by July 2010. After the presentation of the key interactions between water and energy, five areas of focus were defined in order to organize a fruitful brainstorming session.

1. Energy efficient water treatment and supply
2. Energy neutral/positive waste water treatment
3. Water & Energy tools & systems
4. Water & Energy efficiency in homes
5. Water & Energy in industry

Each group agreed to produce a brief summary of its R&D priorities on a medium (2015) and long term (2030) approach before Spring 2010.

For more information: Steven Kaye: sKaye@anglianwater.co.uk and Corentin Girard: scientific@wsstp.eu

Questions about this newsletter? Contact us: wsstp@wsstp.eu – Tel: +32 27 06 40 98

Writing Committee: Mike Farrimond, Corentin Girard, Céline Hervé-Bazin, Durk Krol, Georgie Leeming, Boris Lesjean.

On Board

The Board met on January 14th 2010 in Brussels, Belgium. They discussed:

1/ **The update of the SRA:** for an official release to the European Commission in April as well as to members during the General Assembly and the WFD Conference in Lille, France.

2/ **The ERANET on water:** The WsSTP signed a letter to support the activities proposed by the consortium.

3/ **The MDGs:** following the report made by Peter Pex from VEWIN, the Board agreed to create a sub-group on this topic within the pilot programme on “urban areas”.

Welcome!

The Liaison Office welcomes two new interns to support the growing activities of the Liaison Office.

For technical activities and support to the activities of the PCC, Corentin Girard: scientific@wsstp.eu

He is a graduate of a Master degree in “Water management and Engineering” at Cranfield University (UK) and the ENGEES (France).

For communication and organization of events, Georgina Leeming:

communication@wsstp.eu

She is a first year Master student in Communication Sciences at the CELSA (France).

Innowater

On Friday 11th December the European Commission and the European Water Partnership signed a contract to start the INNOWATER project. INNOWATER, an innovation partnership to promote better innovation support tools and delivery mechanisms in sustainable water and wastewater, started its activities on February 1st 2010 in The Netherlands, Denmark, Cyprus, Spain and the UK.

More:

[http://www.waterlink-international.com/news/id896-INNOWATER to Enhance Wastewater Solutions.html](http://www.waterlink-international.com/news/id896-INNOWATER%20to%20Enhance%20Wastewater%20Solutions.html)

Joint meeting with ETP-SMR

Aiming for a new collaboration

The European Technology Platform Sustainable Mineral Resources (ETP-SMR) & the WsSTP, met on February 12th in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting was chaired by Albert Jansen, from TNO and leader of the Pilot Programme “Water and Industry”, with 9 representatives from water and mineral resources sectors. The SMR ETP represents over 30 metals, minerals, oil, coal and gas organisations. Opportunities for cooperation have been found regarding water treatment process improvement, water recycling as well as regarding the restoration of degraded zones (old mining sites). A framework for cooperation will be submitted to the boards of each platform before the end of March. A workshop between experts of the two platforms will be set up in April to discuss all the challenges and produce a roadmap for recommendations.

For more information:

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Corentin Girard: scientific@wsstp.eu

www.etpsmr.org

Intergroup Water/Wasser

The first meeting of the Intergroup Water/Wasser was dedicated to challenges concerning the European water sector.

Key note speakers were Mr. Peter GAMMELTOFT and Mr. Claude ROUAM, respectively Head of the Water Unit and of the Marine Unit at DG Environment.

The meeting was very well attended with around 60 participants from a wide range of organizations sharing an interest in water. These participants included Members from the European Parliament and representatives from different services of the European Commission.

The attendees and speakers were welcomed by the President of the Intergroup MEP Dr. Richard SEEBER and Ms. Klara SZATKIEWICZ, President of EUREAU.

To read the full report online, consult our Information Center:

www.wsstp.eu

The next meeting is planned on February 24th in Brussels, Belgium.

For more events:

www.wsstp.eu/content/default.asp?PageId=270&LanguageId=0

Agenda

WsSTP

February 23th

Workshop on
Buffer zones & Buffer strips:
Targeting water quality
In Brussels, Belgium

March 15th

Workshop on
“Water Treatment”
Urban pilot and Techneau
In Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Invitation and presentation of
the ECTP, the European Construction
Technology Platform.

March 16th

Board Meeting
In Amsterdam, the Netherlands

April 8-9th

Workshop on “Hydro-Climatic Events”
and “Climate Change”
In Barcelona, Spain

April 8-9th

Workshop on “Sensors and
Monitoring”
In Montpellier, France

SAVE THE DATE

April 26th – 28th 2010

**Annual General Assembly
In Lille, France**