

A common vision for European Water Innovation

January 2009



2010: Harvesting the potential

In October 2009, the WssTP joined the 4th ETPs conference and organised a strategic event with the European Commission to present our achievements, recommendations and challenges.

Since its creation, the WssTP has been successfully working to set up an industry-led stakeholders' forum. This past year, we faced the challenge of updating the SRA that will be released in April during the General Assembly. We have developed collaboration including with other ETPs. We also put efforts in raising our visibility.

In 2010, the main objective will be mobilising **funds for implementation cases** and **strengthening our relationships** with the DG RTD and other key DGs of the European Commission.

- We will build on our work to represent the common vision of a strong community of researchers & stakeholders of the water sector.
- We will **deliver our recommendations** to shape FP7 priorities and commence discussions on FP8.

To our members and contributors, we wish you a successful and fruitful year 2010.

The Board of the WssTP

“Biodiversity is life. Biodiversity is our life”

The UN launched the international year of biodiversity on January 11th. The world is invited to take action in 2010 to safeguard the variety of life on earth: biodiversity. The European Commission has put biodiversity as a priority. Four biodiversity action plans have already been adopted since 2001 under a wider EU Biodiversity strategy agreed in 1998. The latest actions aimed at implementing the existing legislation. Different programmes have been promoting actions on biodiversity including FP & LIFE+.

In particular, **FP7** included biodiversity under the Cooperation programme “Environment” but also in many other programmes on FP7-PEOPLE, FP7-IDEAS... It particularly aims at ensuring the conservation and sustainable management natural and man-made resources and biodiversity. **LIFE+** has put efforts on funding projects related to species but also for the protection of wetlands, rivers, coastal zones. This programme is particularly driven to implement the WFD and to ensure achievement of a “good ecological status” for all rivers. Projects can be funded in the publication of LIFE+ Nature:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/bestprojects/documents/bestnat08.pdf>

For the WssTP, biodiversity is identified as a driver for research and projects. As part of the Water Framework Directive, biodiversity is considered as an important challenge to preserve the nature, receiving bodies and the variety of species is considered. It particularly concerned the activities of the Pilot Programme on “Rehabilitation of Degraded Zones”. The group identified several research needs as gathering data on the state of degraded water sources systems, planning scenarios for system restoration or developing appropriate treatment technologies to ensure the environment can reliably meet the required standards.

Links:

The EEA <http://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/biodiversity-is-life-biodiversity-is-our-life>

The official website of the UN: <http://www.cbd.int/2010/welcome/>



All Brand New! *New @ design*

With the change of the logo, the website of the WssTP changed its design.

Keeping the same structure from the former website, the new design feels lighter and fresher adopting clear colors of white, yellow and blue. The colors recalled the European status of the WssTP as the ETP for water.

In the spirit of continuous improvement of www.wsstp.eu, the next step is to develop the areas for Pilot Programmes, Forums and communication between members. The ultimate goal is to improve the networking within the WssTP.

New website

ACQUEAU launched its new website in the beginning of January. You will find general information on the Eureka cluster, its partners, related links and contacts on this initiative for water research and innovation.

www.acqueau.eu

New Member

The WssTP is pleased to welcome Grontmij, from the Netherlands a part of College A.

www.grontmy.com

Two New Task-Force Leaders

The Board and the PCC are very pleased to welcome:

- **As Leader of the new Task Force "Water and Energy"**
Steve Kaye from Anglian Water, UK
- **As Leader of the new Task Force "Membrane Technologies for Water Applications"**
Jean-Christophe Schrotter from Veolia Environnement, France
- ... And as co-Leaders
Lute Broens from Norit, the Netherlands and Benito Marinas from CETAQUA, Spain.

We wish them all the success in their work for the WssTP.

Pilot Coordination Committee From the SRA to new challenges

The Pilot Coordination Committee met for its first meeting of 2010. The members discussed the major outcomes from 2009 including the update of the SRA, the release of six new reports to DG RTD, the relationships with DG RTD and the progress of each pilot and task-force.

They also considered the action plan for 2010:

- To strengthen relations with the EC. Written R&D recommendations to DG-RTD and Member States will be delivered by July 2010 for the ENV Work Program 2012.
- To strengthen relationships with funding programmes as COST, LIFE+, INTERREG, etc.
- To build up relations with the Member State Mirror Group. They agreed to hold a joint meeting with the MSMG in April.
- To initiate collaboration with other ETPs including SMR (Sustainable Mineral Resources), ECTP, Food for Life.

An Intergroup on Water at the European Parliament

An Intergroup on water has been created in the European Parliament (EP) The initiative to try and create this Intergroup was taken by EUREAU together with MEP dr. Richard Seeber.

Intergroups are transversal groups that serve as a platform to address relevant issues around specific policies areas in a transversal way. The creation of this intergroup should help to raise awareness among European deputies on water issues.

The first event will take place on 27th January when Mr. Gammeltoft and Mr. Rouam respectively head of unit water and marine of DG environment will discuss the key challenges for the European water sector for the next 5 years.

Contact:

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For more events:

<http://www.wsstp.eu/content/default.asp?PageId=615&LanguageId=0>

Agenda WssTP

February 11th

Workshop on Water and Energy
In Brussels, Belgium

February 12th

Joint meeting
WssTP and SMR-ETP
ETP for Sustainable Mineral Resources
In Brussels, Belgium

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

**POSTPONED
APRIL 8-9th**

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

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