



NEWSLETTER

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As 2015 draws to an end, it's time to reflect on what has happened so far and look ahead to what the next year will bring. Over the last few months, the EP Water Group has successfully hosted two high-level dinners with the European Commissioners Carlos Moedas and Karmenu Vella, on research and innovation in water policy and on the circular economy respectively.

While the World Economic Forum has recently declared the Global water crises the biggest threat facing the planet over the next decade, this sense of urgency is not yet properly reflected in many European and national policy debates. The EP Water Group can be of major significance, as a means to place water higher on the European political agenda. The New Year will bring a number of events and activities for the EP Water Group, among which public sessions and meetings with MEPS, policy-makers from other institutions, experts and civil society.

To stay up-to-date with all our ongoing activities and new initiatives, check out our [website!](#)

Season's greetings to all our readers and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Esther de Lange,
EP Water Group Chairwoman

— LATEST NEWS & EVENTS —

**Dinner event with European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime
Affairs and Fisheries, Karmenu Vella**



The European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime affairs, and Fisheries, Karmenu VELLA met with members of the European Parliament and key representatives from the European water sector to debate the role of water in the circular economy, sustainable development goals, and the mainstreaming of water in other policies such as regional policy, agricultural policy, and research and innovation policy.

The meeting took place on 18th of November and it was hosted by MEP Esther DE LANGE in her capacity as chair of the EP Water Group, for which WssTP is the management body. Bruno Tisserand, EurEau president was there to deliver a speech on behalf of the European water sector.

Commissioner VELLA expressed his firm support for the EP Water Group as a forum that continuously ensures that key water issues are highlighted in the European decision-making process. Commissioner Vella emphasized the quintessential importance of closing the water loop in the circular economy. Special attention was given to the reuse and recycling of water in industrial processes and reuse of municipal waste water, as areas with greatest potential in relation to the circular economy.

In particular, Commissioner Vella added that *'European companies are already among the global leaders in the field of reusing municipal wastewater. Our expertise in this field can become a globally recognised source for sound investments, quality jobs, and economic growth.'*

Commissioner Vella pointed out that we need to address and tackle the barriers to water reuse, so that reuse becomes an obvious solution for water managers, farmers and utilities across Europe. He also clearly indicated his intention to work closely with the EIP on Water to ensure that investment in water resources plays an important role in H2020 across all relevant societal challenges. According to Commissioner Vella, water will have a central role to play in the process of transition to an efficient and sustainable economy. [To download the full text of Commissioner's Vella speech, please click here.](#)

EP Water Group public session on 'Water in the Circular Economy'



On the 27th of January from 14h00 onwards, the EP Water Group will host a plenary session on the theme **'Water in the Circular Economy'**. After the adoption of the new Circular economy package by the European Commission on 2 December 2015, the EP Water Group will discuss the role of water in this new action plan, the aim of which is to stimulate Europe's transition towards a circular economy. The agenda of the event will be available in the coming weeks.

EP Water Group event in cooperation with the Dutch EU Presidency



After the last Dutch EU presidency in 2004, the Netherlands is taking over the presidency of the European Union from the 1st of January 2016 and the EP Water Group has already scheduled to hold a joint event at the beginning of April. More information will be published shortly.



The European Water Platform

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