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Newsletter April 2024

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Selected stories of what has happened since the last issue

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Learn more about our future events and save the dates!

➤ News from Brussels

Abstracts with links to download the full length articles

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News from EWA

New Corporate Members

Emile Egger & Cie SA



We're delighted to welcome our newest Corporate Member, **Emile Egger & Cie SA**.

Emile Egger & Cie SA is a medium-sized and independent Swiss industrial enterprise founded in 1947 with a concentration on the development and manufacture of centrifugal pumps and flow control valves.

Egger is present in many areas of wastewater treatment from pumping raw sewage, sand and water mixtures, primary sludge, recirculation, recycled and digested sludge to other secondary sludge such as lime water and activated carbon suspensions. The Iris® diaphragm control valves also offer the perfect solution for precise control of liquids and gases.

You can learn more on their website.

HIDROING

Hidroing Ltd.. was founded in 1993. During the years Hidroing has developed into a highly specialized company engaged to solve problems in water management. Basic activities of the company is to provide design and consultancy services of sewage and water systems and other hydro facilities.



Hidroing Ltd. offers services to create the following types of documentation:

- Development of studies and concept designs
- Project optimization
- · Feasibility studies
- · Conceptual, performance and major projects
- Tender documentation
- · Analysis, monitoring and rehabilitation projects of existing systems
- Design systems for remote monitoring and control
- · Planning and investment control

New Research Members

Univeristy of Sheffield, Department of Civil & Structural Engineering



We are also very excited to welcome a new Research Member Univeristy of Sheffield, Department of Civil & Structural Engineering!

Established in 1917, the Department of Civil Engineering focuses on research excellence, particularly in structures and water, it aims to be the leading civil engineering department in the UK. From its modest beginnings, it has grown into a community of over 40 academic staff, 500 undergraduates, 100 postgraduates, and numerous alumni worldwide. Renowned for its research in areas like structural fire engineering and flood prevention, it also addresses emerging global challenges such as sustainability and digital technologies. Dedicated to shaping a better future, it prepares engineers to tackle these pressing issues head-on.

You can learn more about the University here.

University of Palermo, Department of Engineering

We are also very happy to welcome the **University** of Palermo, Department of Engineeringg as new Research Member!





The Department manages and supports teaching, research and the so-called third-mission activities. It involves more than 260 researchers and is divided into 6 Sections:

- Chemical, Biochemical and Materials Engineering, Hydraulics
- Computer Engineering
- · Structural and Infrastructural Engineering
- Mechanics, Manufacturing, Management & Aerospace
- · Electronics Physics Mathematics
- Energy

Discover more by visiting the official website.

We are very happy to welcome so many new members! We look forward to the collaboration!

IFAT Munich 2024

Come visit us at IFAT Munich with a free entrance ticket!

You can already secure your tickets for **IFAT Munich 2024 from May 13th to May 17th**. This year the ticket includes public transportation in Munich so make sure you book it! **This code can be used by anyone so don't hesitate to share this code within your network!**

We can't wait to welcome you at our EWA Booth at the entrance of Hall West.

Use the code "EWA_2024" and secure your day ticket on the IFAT Ticket Shop.

To learn more about EWA activities during the fair, read our EWA EVENTS section below.

If you have any questions regarding the EWA tickets, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@ewa-online.eu

COME VISIT US!

SECURE YOUR FREE TICKET

USE THE CODE **EWA_2024**







Secure a FREE ticket to IFAT Munich 2024 -The World's Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management

Water Conference - Leuven



On March 12th, took place the Water Conference: Speeding up to a water resilient Europe.

Towards an EU water resilience agenda, in

Water resilience is a critical concern within the EU, with countries and regions having to deal with drought, water scarcity, and increasingly severe floods. During the Belgian Presidency of the EU Council, this 1-day conference provided valuable perspectives and insights on water resilience in Europe.

On the day of the event, over 200 participants, policy makers and experts from the water sector in Europe converged to Leuven to exchange on the current statute of water in Europe and what is needed to improve it.

The Water Conference features presentations and in-depth panel discussions covering:

- · Changing risks of hydrological extremes
- Outlining the future towards a water resilient Europe
- Implementing evidence-based pathways to a water resilient Europe: actionable knowledge for decision makers
- · Advancing towards a water smart society
- Fostering water resilience in a transboundary context

→ Read the full summary of the conference <u>here</u>.

You can also watch a video with impressions of the day here.



DIGIWATER

Digitalisation of water industry by innovative graduate water education



DIGIWATER brings together six universities, six SMEs and a European umbrella organisation for water, consolidating the lessons learned from decades-long experience in the field. The ambition is to develop innovative and multidisciplinary approaches to teach and stimulate entrepreneurial skills contributing to reduce the knowledge gap between professionals in the water sector and enabling faster uptake of innovations. Results from extensive stakeholder analysis will form iteratively improving models for teaching and learning approaches that will also be shared beyond the project partners. During the project, 2 Innovation Camps took place in Leuven, Belgium and Istanbul, Turkey.

⇒ Read the full article here.

Members News

Nanobubbles Eliminate Odors, Improve Process Efficiency and Energy Recovery at Danish WWTP



Please find below the case study of our Corporate Member Moleaer.

Stavnsholt WWTP experienced many complaints from the community due to noxious smells. The use of ferric chloride (FeCL3) had partially reduced some of the hydrogen sulfide (H2S) smell but was not enough to stop the complaints, and other solutions were costly to implement.

An Alternative Solution: Nanobubble Technology to Control Odors

To solve this, Stavnsholt WWTP installed a mobile nanobubble generation unit on the primary clarifier.

Moleaer's nanobubble technology produces bubbles 70-120 nanometers in diameter - 10,000 times smaller than a 1 mm bubble. Due to their small size, they have unique chemical and physical properties, and inhibit the anaerobic conditions that cause the formation of H2S.

After the installation, odor complaints practically stopped, while use of ferric was reduced by 84%. In addition to solving this with little to no chemicals, they observed more benefits downstream.

- Primary sludge dry matter content increased by 10%
- · Biogas volume and methane concentration increased.
- · Digester resiliency improved

⇒ Download the case study <u>here</u>.

The picture illustrates TECHRAS Nano, Moleaer's channel partner in Denmark, installed the mobile nanobubble generation unit on the primary clarifier in November 2022.

EWA EVENTS

Next FREE Webinar: Water Reuse: Challenges and Opportunities in Europe



18.04.2024

Reuse of treated waste water is becoming more evident in the context of climate change. On June 26, 2023, the European Regulation establishing minimum standards for water reuse in agricultural irrigation came into effect. This webinar "Water Reuse: Challenges and Opportunities in Europe" aims to provide insights into the current landscape in Europe regarding water reuse, including opt-in and opt-out countries and existing legislation.

Additionally, it will highlight best practices observed within EU member states concerning water reuse and its implications for the Food-Water-Energy Nexus.

This event is a kickoff event of IFAT Munich 2024. Look at the program below and join us!

PROGRAM

11:00 - 11:05	Welcome Address	Arthur Guischet, Deputy Secretary General
11:05 – 11:30	State of the art of the EU Water Reuse Regulation	Roberta MAFFETTONE - European Commission - DG Joint Research Centre (IT)
11:30 - 11:40	Reclaimed Water for Greening of Urban Areas	Prof. Jiri Wanner, University of Chemistry and Technology Prague (UCT) (CZ)
11:40 -11:50	FlexTreat project - Flexible and reliable concepts for sustainable water reuse in agriculture	Max Zimmermann, Research Group Drinking Water and Water Reuse, RWTH Aachen University (DE)
11:50 - 12:00	Water Reuse and its impact on the Food-Water-Energy Nexus	To be confirmed
12:00 - 12:30	Round Table, Q&A and Closing	Arthur Guischet, EWA Deputy Secretary General



EWA Free Webinar: New paths of Qualification and Recruitment in the Water Sector



25.04.2024

The water utilities sector in Europe employs over 500,000 technical professionals, with approximately 80% of them being technicians. However, despite the significant workforce in place, the sector is encountering difficulties in recruitment and qualification of staff. This poses a challenge as the water industry requires skilled personnel to address the upcoming challenges it faces.

The webinar "New paths of Qualification and Recruitment in the Water Sector" aims to shed light on this critical issue within the water sector and proposes measures to tackle these challenges effectively.

By highlighting the importance of addressing recruitment and qualification issues, the webinar seeks to facilitate discussions and provide solutions to ensure a competent and capable workforce for the future of water utilities in Europe.

Check our program here and sign up!

IFAT 2024

We are thrilled to present the program for this year's **IFAT Munich**.

Our program includes a diverse range of events covering topics such as water reuse, water investments, desalination, and the role of water in the green deal during the 21st EWA International Symposium. A sneak peek of our program is provided below. The programs of each events will be online very soon!

For the first time, we are organising parallel to IFAT the **3rd International Conference on Water Management in Changing Conditions** (WMCC). Registrations are now open! Learn more below >



3rd International Conference on Water Management in Changing Conditions

Registrations are open! Early Bird price extended until 15.04







Norwegian University of Life Sciences



WMCC 2024: Water Management in Changing Conditions

14-15 May 2024

at the IFAT-Munich exhibition



https://wmcc2024.net/



The 1st and 2nd WMCC conferences held in 2016 (Spitsbergen, Norway) and 2020 (Harbin, China) focused on water management in cold climates. Responding to the needs of the scientific community, from now on the WMCC will focus on Water Management in Changing Conditions. We will specifically cover three aspects (1) Changing temperatures – especially colder climates, (2) Changing climate – causing changing precipitations, (3) Changing populations – due to seasonal activities increasing populations to serve.

This year the conference will be hosted by IFAT-Munich, giving a unique opportunity to learn about market-leading suppliers and technologies. **European Water Association** (EWA) will organise **WMCC 2024** supported by the **International Water Association** (IWA).

In order to attend this conference, registration is mandatory. You go to the <u>official website</u> for more information and to register. The program is available <u>here</u>.

News from Brussels

Topics covered in the News from Brussels

The articles in the News from Brussels section here below cover the following topics:

- 1. EU Nature Restoration Law hanging in the balance after adoption by European Parliament
- 2. Mercury: EU Regulation on banning amalgam
- 3. Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP) paper on implementing the new nature restoration law
- 4. UK: Increased water inspections by authorities in England and Wales
- 5. Pollution from ship sources
- 6. Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP) annual report
- 7. Land and water management (Global Water Partnership paper)
- 8. Negotiations EU Switzerland: a new beginning (?)
- 9. WAREG (European Water Regulators): Key performance indicators frameworks
- 10. Upholding the Law: update on infringement procedures
- 11. European Parliament: water-related Parliamentary questions

1. EU Nature Restoration Law - hanging in the balance after adoption by European Parliament

The new law would set a target for the EU to restore at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030, and all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.

Following the political agreement between EU legislators (European Parliament and Council) in the trilogue, the EP Plenary took the final formal decision on 27 February 2024.

The Council however did not honour its own political agreement, following a last-minute change of attitude by some Member States. The decision has been postponed in Council.

Read the full article:

→ Nature protection law

2. Mercury: EU Regulation on banning amalgam

EWA NEWS 1/2024 reported on developments on the proposed ban of remaining uses of mercury in the European Union.

At rather high speed, EU legislators reached on 8 February 2024 a political agreement within the so-called trilogue between Parliament, Council and Commission, with a ban on the use and exportation of dental amalgam from 01 January 2025 (with the exception of some specific medical needs of the patient), with both the EP Plenary and the Council giving their final formal agreement.

EWA NEWS provides you the text of the final agreement, the original legislative proposal as well as the underlying Minimata Convention elaborated within the UN framework.

Read the full article:

→ Mercury Ban

3. Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP) paper on implementing the new nature restoration law

The Nature Restoration Law has been adopted by the European Parliament. There is one step left in the process as the Council of the EU now needs to formally approve the final text, before the law can enter into force. Once that has happened, the focus will shift to Member States to draft their National Restoration Plans, which are essential to implementing the EU regulation as their preparation and implementation will largely determine whether they will reach the targets and objectives of the law.

The Plans will have to be adopted two years after the law's entry into force, meaning they will likely need to be ready by mid-2026. The European Commission will then review all plans and submit comments to Member States, which they must consider in their revised final Plans.

A recent paper by the IEEP sets out guidance how to successfully navigating the planning process.

Read the full article:

⇒ IEEP nature protection guidance

4. UK: Increased water inspections by authorities in England and Wales

Past months saw increasing complains by media, citizens and NGOs on water pollution caused by insufficient performance of the privatised water utilities in England and Wales.

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Environment Agency and the responsible Secretary of State announced in a press release a forthcoming increased scrutiny of the privatised water companies in England and Wales.

- Fourfold increase in water company inspections to hold companies to account.
- Includes up to 500 additional staff for inspections, enforcement and stronger regulation over the next three years, with recruitment already underway.
- Part of a tougher regime fully funded by government and water company permits.

Read the full article:

→ UK water inspections

5. Pollution from ship sources

Following the 2005 EU Directive on water pollution from ships, there have been significant developments in protection of the marine environment both in the UN International Maritime Organization (IMO MARPOL Convention) and in EU legislation (Directive 2019/883/EU which requires ships to deliver their waste in ports). In addition, EU rules on the protection of the environment through criminal law (Directive 2008/99/EC) have been found inefficient and in need for revision.

Expansion of scope and alignment to MARPOL rules has been proposed by the Commission in 2023. Following a debate in the European Parliament and the Council, a trilogue between European Parliament, Council and Commission delivered on 15 February 2024 a political agreement in 1st reading - subject to formal adoption by the legislators.

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements on the revision as well as links to the current Directive, the legislative proposal for a revision and the final text agreed in trilogue.

Read the full article:

⇒Ship source pollution

6. Institute of European Environmental Policy (IEEP) annual report

The Institute for European Environmental Policy is a not-for-profit sustainability think tank. Working with stakeholders across EU institutions, international bodies, academia, civil society and industry, their team of economists, scientists and lawyers produce evidence-based research and policy insight.

IEEP work spans five research areas (Global Challenges and SDG, Climate and Circular Economy, Land Use and Climate, CAP and Food, and Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.) and covers both short-term policy issues and long-term strategic studies. As a not-for-profit organisation with over 45 years of experience, IEEP are committed to advancing impact-driven sustainability policy across the EU and the world.

Every year the Institute for European Environmental Policy – IEEP AISBL produces their Annual report summarizing the activities, projects and initiatives covered in the financial year (June-July). The Annual report for the period 2022-2023 as well as the financial statements (in English and French) have now been published.

Read the full article:

►IEEP Annual report

7. Land and water management (Global Water Partnership paper)

This paper explores the benefits of a coordinated approach to land and water governance in efforts to address the global food security challenge and the need to tackle gender inequality in access to and control over land and water.

Read the full article:

<u>Land and water governance</u>

8. Negotiations EU - Switzerland: a new beginning (?)

EU - Swiss relation have been far from easy in past years: In May 2014, the Council authorized negotiations between the EU and Switzerland on an institutional framework agreement governing bilateral relations. Following years of negotiations, the EU and Switzerland politically agreed on a joint draft for an "institutional framework agreement" in November 2018. However, in May 2021, Switzerland unilaterally broke off negotiations on this agreement.

Within a new beginning, the Council of the EU on 12 March 2024 authorized the Commission to negotiate, on behalf of the EU, a broad package of measures with Switzerland as the basis for future EU-Switzerland relations. It also approved the corresponding directives for the negotiation. The Swiss Federal Council adopted its mandate on 8 March.

Read the full article:

⇒EU-Switzerland negotiations

<u>9. WAREG (European Water Regulators): Key performance indicators</u> frameworks

WAREG is the Association of Public Authorities with economic responsibilities in the drinking water and wastewater sector. Established in 2014, with headquarters in Milan and Brussels, it is made up of 24 Members and 8 Observers, coming from 17 EU Countries, UK and 9 EU candidate or potential candidate Countries

The latest report from WAREG provides an extensive analysis of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) used across Europe for regulating water utilities.

The WAREG report sheds light on how different European countries utilize KPIs in the water sector. It reveals a landscape where KPI usage varies significantly, not only in terms of the types of indicators but also in their application and the methodologies used for calculation.

Read the full article:

→ Water Regulators

10. Upholding the Law: update on infringement procedures

The European Union is constitutionally designed as a Union of Law. According to the Treaties (Treaty on European Union, Treaty on Functioning of the European Union), Member States are obliged to comply with EU legislation adopted by the legislator (European Parliament and Council), and the Commission has the right and the obligation to scrutinise such compliance and where appropriate take legal action.

February and March 2024 saw a range of infringement procedures, from EU waste and nature protection legislation to the Water Framework and the Floods Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, against the following Member States: Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

EWA NEWS provides you the key elements of the cases, an overview of the system of infringement procedures and links to environmental cases where the Court imposed financial sanctions

Read the full article:

→Upholding the law

11. European Parliament: water-related Parliamentary questions

19 water-related questions from Parliamentarians, from the future Common Agricultural Policy and pricing for drinking water and wastewater to inadequate waste water infrastructure, and from major road projects to PFAS contaminations.

EWA News presents you the outline texts of the questions and the coordinates of the MEP who has submitted them, plus links to the full text and (once available) the answers.

Read the full article:

⇒EP questions

Other Events

Mission-Critical Training: Flint, Michigan Online Deep-Dive Events

16 April - Online

Presented by the United States Environmental Protection Agency's former Flint Drinking Water Coordinator.

This live, paid Online Deep-Dive provides an in-depth overview of events that led up to the crisis. This is your unique opportunity to hear a first-hand account of lessons-learned so you can help prevent another "Flint".

Topics: Lead contamination. Legionella & waterborne microbials. Safe Drinking Water Act. Public health protection. Environmental **Justice**

You can register here.

IE expo China 2024

18-20 April 2024, Shangai



Protect People, Protect The Environment

As Asia's leading environmental show, IE expo China offers an effective business and networking platform for Chinese and international professionals in the environmental sector and is accompanied by first-class technical-scientific conference program. It is the ideal platform for professionals in the environmental industry to develop business, exchange ideas and network. Don't miss the opportunity to meet the key players and your customers at IE expo China!

IE expo China 2024

© April 18-20, 2024

© Shanghul New International Expo Centre (SNEC)

More info here.

IFAT Brasil

24-26 April 2024, São Paulo

In 2024, the largest environmental technology network in the world expanded its portfolio to add existing initiatives and leverage the environmental technology market in Latin America, with the launch of IFAT Brasil. The IFAT Brasil Congress makes a substantial contribution to technological exchange and professional improvement, emphasizing the importance of the market and business related to environmental technologies in Brazil and around the world. With a comprehensive selection of more than 15 panels during the three days of the fair, the program will be marked by the presence of major players. Read more here.



IFAT Munich 2024 - Munich

13-17 May 2024

IFAT Munich—The World's Leading Trade Fair for Environmental Technologies boasts a high international presence and an impressive number of exhibitors and visitors. IFAT Munich is known as an industry platform for presentations and innovation in the water, sewage, waste and raw materials sector. All relevant keyplayers will present their latest products and services on environmental solutions.



More information on the official website.

Danube Water Forum

29-30 May 2024 - Brasov, Romania

The Danube Water Conference will focus on the impact of a changing climate on the region's water sector with sessions exploring recent developments and their effects on utilities and highlighting best practice examples how to face them. The conference's objective is to foster cooperation and knowledge exchange to tackle the emerging challenges faced by the Danube region's water sector.



The Forum will draw more than 150 senior water professionals and provide sufficient opportunities to network and make valuable connections

All the information are available on the official website.

The 19th IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies

24-28 June 2024 - Essen, Germany

The IWA Leading Edge Conference on Water and Wastewater Technologies is designed to be the place for sharing the latest insights into how pioneering science, technological innovation and leading practices will shape the major transformation in water management that is underway.



Registration for the conference is now open at https://iwa-let.org/.

The German Water Sector: Focus on Water Supply & Wastewater

25-27 June - Hennef, Germany

Participants will understand the basic setup of the German water sector – it's structure, facts and figures, stakeholders, the administrative setup, history and current topics from the industry. Next to the overview on the German system, examples of adaptations and transfer possibilities to various countries will be covered.



More information online.

SIDISA - XII International Symposium on Environmental Engineering

01-04.10.2024 - Palermo, Italy

SIDISA is a significant event for researchers and professionals that covers the entire panorama of Environmental Engineering. The topics deal with water, air, soil, and waste. Special emphasis will be given to advanced treatment and management issues, while addressing the needs of sustainable development, circular economy, and climate change mitigation.

The Symposium will provide a forum for sharing ideas, scientific results, and practical experiences. Discussion will range from the frontiers of research to the design and management of treatment plants, rehabilitation interventions and "City of the Future" concepts.



More information here.

Until we meet again ..

The next EWA Newsletter will be sent out June 2024.

Until then, please visit us at:

- ★ Facebook (@ewa.online.eu)
- ★ LinkedIn (European Water Association)
- ★ X (@water_ewa)
- ★ Youtube: EWA Online

Any suggestions, comments or content from the members to the next issue may be send to this email.

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More Information: http://www.ewa-online.eu/

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