

# CIRCULAR WAYS: PROMOTING CIRCULAR APPROACHES IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT



29 June 2023



9:00 - 12:00 CEST



Biblioteca Capitolare - Piazza Duomo 19  
37121 Verona - Italy  
& Online



# PROMOTING CIRCULAR APPROACHES IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT

08:30

**WELCOME COFFEE**

09:00 – 09:15

**WELCOME ADDRESSES**

Bernard Van Nuffel – President, Aqua Publica Europea & VIVAQUA  
Roberto Mantovanelli – President, Acque Veronesi

## SESSION I: CIRCULAR PERSPECTIVES

09:15 – 09:30

**EVOLUTION OF THE EU LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON WASTEWATER AND SLUDGE**

Nele-Frederike Rosenstock – Policy Officer, Marine Environment and Clean Water Services, DG Environment, European Commission [online]

09:30 – 10:30

**CIRCULAR APPROACHES: A EUROPEAN OUTLOOK**

Jon Rathjen – Deputy Director, Water Policy & DECC Operations, Scottish Government  
Gudrun Winkler – Senior Advisor, Management Systems and Technology, Hamburg Wasser [online]  
Paolo Giandon – Director, Environment and Ecological Transition Department, Veneto Region

10:30 – 10:45

**COFFEE BREAK**

## SESSION II: CIRCULAR DRIVE

10:45 – 11:00

**EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PRIORITIES FOR CIRCULARITY IN THE WATER SECTOR**

Bertrand Vallet – Policy Officer, Circular Economy & Biobased Systems Unit, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission

11:00 – 11:30

**PROMISING INNOVATIONS TO ENHANCE CIRCULARITY: EXAMPLES FROM APE MEMBERS**

Enrico Pezzoli – President, Como Acqua  
Marco Blazina – Head of Operations, MM

11:30 – 12:00

**PANEL DISCUSSION: CONDITIONS TO ACCELERATE CIRCULAR APPROACHES IN THE WATER SECTOR**

Bertrand Vallet – European Commission  
Veronica Santoro – European Sustainable Phosphorous Platform  
Prof David Bolzonella – University of Verona

12:00

**CONCLUSIVE REMARKS**

Roberto Mantovanelli – President, Acque Veronesi

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**WELCOME ADDRESSES**



**Bernard Van Nuffel**

President, Aqua Publica Europea & VIVAQUA

Bernard Van Nuffel has been President of VIVAQUA (Brussels' water operator) since February 2019 and of Aqua Publica Europea (European association of public water operators) since November 2020. Currently Deputy Mayor of Jette (one of Brussels' municipalities), he has been involved in the implementation of local urban and environmental policies since 1997, when he joined the administration of the Belgian capital first with responsibilities for urban planning, then as advisor and chief of cabinet to the Deputy Mayor for Public Spaces. Bernard Van Nuffel is an architect by training.



**Roberto Mantovanelli**

President, Acque Veronesi

A management engineer by training, Roberto Mantovanelli has worked as a freelancer in management consulting, operations and supply chain, in particular in the fields of engineering, renewable energy and public utilities. He has been the President of Acque Veronesi since 2018 and a Member of the Executive Committee of Utilitalia since 2011. In 2019, he joined the Management Board of Aqua Publica Europea.

## SESSION I: CIRCULAR PERSPECTIVES

09:15 - 09:30

**EVOLUTION OF THE EU LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON WASTEWATER AND SLUDGE**



**Nele-Frederike Rosenstock**

Policy Officer, Marine Environment and Clean Water Services  
DG Environment, European Commission [online]

Nele-Frederike Rosenstock works as Policy Officer in the Clean Water Services and Marine Environment Unit of the Directorate General for the Environment. She has been working at the European Commission since 2017, first on the revision of the Drinking Water Directive and then on the evaluation and revision of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. In this context, she also worked on water investment needs of the water sector.

09:30 - 10:30

**CIRCULAR APPROACHES: A EUROPEAN OUTLOOK**



**Jon Rathjen**

Deputy Director, Water Policy & DECC Operations,  
Scottish Government

Jon Rathjen has over 30 years' experience as a Public Servant having worked for Customs and Excise and now the Scottish Government. He is the Deputy Director for Water Policy and the directorate for energy and climate change operations in the Scottish Government with responsibility for the Scottish Water Industry, including sponsorship of the public corporation Scottish Water and the new Hydro Nation agenda. The Hydro Nation focuses on the economic, social and environmental development of the value of water resources in Scotland and the raising of Scotland's international profile through its performance on global water issues.

# PROMOTING CIRCULAR APPROACHES IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT



## **Gudrun Winkler**

Senior Advisor, Management Systems and Technology  
Hamburg Wasser [online]

Gudrun Winkler has 12+ years of experience as environmental expert specialised in various fields of the water industry. A water engineer by training, she holds a Master by Research in Water Sciences and a PhD in Water Technology from Cranfield University (UK). Prior to joining Hamburg Wasser as Head of the Wastewater Monitoring Group in 2018, she has been working in leading positions at different governmental levels – from municipal to ministerial – with a strong history of strategy development, quality and change management. In her current role, she supports the ‘Management Systems and Technologies’ division in topics such as technology development, sustainability, climate protection, micropollutants, quality and energy management.



## **Paolo Giandon**

Director, Environment and Ecological Transition Department,  
Veneto Region

Paolo Giandon has been Director of the Environment and Ecological Transition Department of the Veneto Region since 2021, with competences in integrated water service, water protection, waste cycle, circular economy, air quality and climate. From 1998 to 2021, he has worked at the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection and Prevention of the Veneto dealing with soil monitoring and protection, contaminated site remediation, environmental assessments and environmental monitoring of major works.

**10:30 – 10:45**

**COFFEE BREAK**

## **SESSION II: CIRCULAR DRIVE**

**10:45 – 11:00**

**EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PRIORITIES FOR CIRCULARITY IN THE  
WATER SECTOR**



## **Bertrand Vallet**

Policy Officer, Circular Economy & Biobased Systems Unit, DG Research and  
Innovation, European Commission

Bertrand Vallet is an engineer in water treatment and holds a master and a PhD in wastewater treatment and modelling. He is currently Policy Officer at the European Commission in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation in the Unit Bioeconomy and Biobased Systems. He is responsible for the design and the implementation of Research and Innovation policy in the field of water. Before joining the European Commission, he was Policy Officer at EurEau, the European Federation of Water Services, for 8 years where he worked on several key policies, mainly related to wastewater and circular economy. Combined with his involvement in multiple research projects on wastewater quality modelling as a researcher, he has more than 20 years of technical and policy development experience in the water sector.



# PROMOTING CIRCULAR APPROACHES IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT

11:00 – 11:30

## PROMISING INNOVATIONS TO ENHANCE CIRCULARITY: EXAMPLES FROM APE MEMBERS



**Enrico Pezzoli**  
President, Como Acqua

An engineer by training, Enrico Pezzoli has extensive managerial experience in industrial and commercial fields. He developed his professional profile in private and public sector companies and held executive responsibilities in a leading company for renewable energy, network and infrastructure management. In 2018, he was elected President of Como Acqua, the company that manages the integrated water service of the Province of Como. The following year, he joined the Board of Directors of Confservizi, a regional association that brings together utilities and companies operating in the public utility sector. In 2021, he was appointed spokesperson for Water Alliance - Acque di Lombardia, a network of companies formed by the 13 public water managers in the Lombardy region, and was appointed to the Management Board of Aqua Publica Europea.



**Marco Blazina**  
Head of Operations, MM

Marco Blazina is an environmental engineer who graduated from Milan University in 2005. He spent almost 10 years working for an international company in the water treatment sector, first as Process Engineer and then as Operation and Process Manager on wastewater treatment plants. Since 2014, he has been working for the multi-utility MM spa owned by the municipality of Milan in the water service division as Chief Operating Officer wastewater, Wastewater Treatment Plants Director and Head of the Division in charge of the wastewater treatment plant of the Milan city area, pumping stations, environmental department, industrial discharges, rainwater plants and urban network monitoring systems.

11:30 – 12:00

## PANEL DISCUSSION: CONDITIONS TO ACCELERATE CIRCULAR APPROACHES IN THE WATER SECTOR



**Bertrand Vallet**  
European Commission

Bertrand Vallet is an engineer in water treatment and holds a master and a PhD in wastewater treatment and modelling. He is currently Policy Officer at the European Commission in the Directorate General for Research and Innovation in the Unit Bioeconomy and Biobased Systems. He is responsible for the design and the implementation of Research and Innovation policy in the field of water. Before joining the European Commission, he was Policy Officer at EurEau, the European Federation of Water Services, for 8 years where he worked on several key policies, mainly related to wastewater and circular economy. Combined with his involvement in multiple research projects on wastewater quality modelling as a researcher, he has more than 20 years of technical and policy development experience in the water sector.



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**Veronica Santoro**  
European Sustainable Phosphorous Platform

Veronica Santoro joined the European Sustainable Phosphorous Platform (ESPP) as a representative in Brussels in late 2022. Her key responsibility is to help define a long-term vision for phosphorus sustainability in Europe. In this role, she interacts with stakeholders from diverse sectors and EU institutions to promote a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing the challenges of phosphorus management in Europe. Prior to joining ESPP, she worked at the University of Torino, where she researched phosphorus cycles in soil and plant responses to phosphorus deficiency. At ESPP, in addition to her representative work, Veronica manages communication and contacts with various European research projects.



**Prof David Bolzonella**  
University of Verona

David Bolzonella is Professor in Chemical Engineering at the Department of Biotechnology of the University of Verona. He participated in more than 10 EU funded projects related to wastewater, sludge and organic waste management and treatment, the results of which appeared in 150 papers published in international journals and were cited more than 10,000 times. He is listed among the Top Italian Scientists for the research field 'engineering' and is part of Scientific, Technical and Advisory boards in different public and private bodies like Veneto Sviluppato Spa, the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection and Prevention of the Veneto and Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Verona.

12:00

## CONCLUSIVE REMARKS



**Roberto Mantovanelli**  
President, Acque Veronesi

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# THE MEMBERS OF AQUA PUBLICA

