



EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION
OF PUBLIC WATER OPERATORS

Aqua Publica Europea, the European association of public water operators, and its Working Group "Tariffs and assets management" are pleased to invite you to the seminar

SETTING THE RIGHT PRICE

How to combine protection of water resources, cost recovery, and affordability through water pricing

4 December 2014

9:30 – 13:00

VIVAQUA Hall

17, Boulevard de l'Impératrice

1000 Brussels

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

Increased resource efficiency is a key element of the EU 2020 strategy for inclusive and sustainable growth. This objective is all the more important in the water domain, where several scientific studies have highlighted rising trends in water scarcity and stress phenomena in Europe. In this framework, the European Commission's Blueprint for water resources emphasises the role of water pricing policies to promote a more efficient use of water resources, and calls on Member States and stakeholders to increase their efforts to deliver the cost-recovery requirement.

However, the current economic crisis has intensified water access problems in Europe and water affordability is a growing political concern. This was also recognized by the European Commission in its response to the European Citizen Initiative Right2Water.

This seminar is intended to identify the challenges and explore possible solutions to reconcile these three objectives: protection of water resources, cost recovery and affordability.

APE's proposals will be presented along with contributions by distinguished speakers from the European Commission, the European Environmental Agency, and representatives of national water regulators.

The debate will be followed by a lunch.

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08:30 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 09:35	<i>Welcome Address</i> Christiane Franck , Chief Executive Officer of Aqua Publica Europea and Director General of VIVAQUA (Belgian Water Operator)
09:35 – 09:45	<i>Introductory Remarks</i> Célia Blauel , President of Aqua Publica Europea and President of Eau de Paris (French Water Operator)

SESSION I

Water pricing and cost recovery : the perspective from public water utilities

09:45 – 10:00	<i>APE's position on water pricing: combining protection of water resources, cost recovery, and affordability</i> Christiane Franck , VIVAQUA
10:00 – 10:15	<i>Outlook from the European Commission on the implementation of Art. 9: state of art and future actions</i> Lukasz Latala , Policy Officer, Water Unit, Directorate General Environment, European Commission
10:15 – 10:30	<i>Assessment of cost-recovery through water pricing: a report from the European Environmental Agency</i> Gorm Dige , Project Manager Territorial environment, policy and economic analysis, European Environmental Agency
10:30 – 11:00	Questions & Answers
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee Break

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SESSION II

Water pricing in an evolving institutional framework: recent trends within different national contexts

11:20 – 11:30	<i>Introduction to session II</i> Alessandro Ramazzotti , Vice-President APE and Chief Executive Officer of ABBANOA (Italian Water Operator)
11:30 – 11:45	<i>The role of water regulators in price-setting</i> Céline Kauffmann , Deputy Head of the Regulatory Policy Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
11:30 – 12:00	<i>The Italian Case: a new entity for water pricing</i> Lorenzo Bardelli , Director of the Water Division – Italian regulatory Authority for Electricity, Gas and Water
12:00 – 12:15	<i>The Belgian Case: regionalisation of water price-setting competences</i> Ingeborg Limbourg , Analyst Drinking Water Sector, Flemish Water Regulator
12:15 – 12:30	<i>Water governance and price setting in Scotland</i> Jon Rathjen , Water Industry Team Leader - Directorate for Energy and Climate Change, Scottish Government
12:30 – 12:45	<i>Outside the EU: The Swiss approach on water pricing</i> Agnes Meyer Frund , Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Price Monitoring Agency, Switzerland
12:45 – 13:15	Questions & Answers
13:15	Lunch

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Working Languages: English/French/Italian