

*Aqua Publica Europea, the European Association of Public Water Operators*  
*Water Alliance, Water Operators of the Lombardy Region*  
*Viveracqua, Water Operators of the Veneto Region*

have the pleasure to invite you to their seminar

## THE NEW DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE AND BEYOND

### Ensuring better water quality in Europe: challenges and approaches

26 October 2018  
09:30 – 13:30

Cremona Fair  
Piazza Ennio Zelioli Lanzini, 1  
Cremona, Italy

#### CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

Last February, the European Commission published its proposal to revise the Drinking Water Directive. If compared to the current legislation, the Commission's proposal introduces stricter quality requirements and a risk-based approach to ensure that the water we drink is both safe and good. What is more, the text put forward by the Commission significantly expands the scope of the Directive by introducing objectives on topics such as the access to water and transparency. If, on the one hand, the Commission's proposal creates new challenges for water operators, on the other hand, their role is heightened. Water operators are indeed identified as the cornerstone of the governance framework outlined in the proposal.

Meanwhile, the European Commission is currently assessing the effectiveness of other key pieces of the EU water legislation, from the Urban Waste Water Treatment to the Water Framework Directives. The first part of the seminar will be dedicated to discussing the likely effects of the evolving EU legislation on European public water operators' operations and their plans to address the new challenges. Particular attention will be paid to the implications of current and forthcoming legislation from technical, organisational and financial perspectives.

The second session will then focus on the evolution of water governance models in Europe, also in the light of transformations the future EU legislation is likely to produce. A proposal for a reform of the water sector currently discussed in Italy will be examined together with recent regulatory developments in other European countries in order to explore analogies and differences in the reforms across Europe.

In addition to representatives of the European public water sector, the conference will benefit from the contributions of European and national legislators, financial institutions, and regulatory authorities.

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## PROGRAMME

- 09.30 – 09.45**      **Registration and welcome coffee**
- 09.45 – 10.10**      **Welcome addresses**  
**Célia Blauel**, President of APE and Deputy-Mayor of Paris  
**Representative City of Cremona**
- 10.10 – 10.30**      **Introduction – Renewing EU water legislation: what is at stake?**  
**Veronica Manfredi**, Director, Directorate General for Environment – European Commission
- 10.30 – 11.45**      **Roundtable I – Possible responses to technical and economic challenges stemming from EU water legislation**
- **Andrea Guerrini**, President, WAREG - European Network of Water Regulators
  - **Gabor Till**, Senior Advisor, Budapest Waterworks
  - **Eric Smit**, President, Société Wallonne des Eaux - Aquawal
  - **Thomas Van Gilst**, Head of Water Division, European Investment Bank
- Moderated by **Nicola De Sanctis**, CEO, Acquedotto Pugliese*
- 11.45 – 12.00**      **Coffee Break**
- 12.00 – 12.20**      **Introduction – Legislative proposals for water governance reform in Italy**
- **Federica Daga**, Member of the Italian Parliament (in video-conference)
  - **Chiara Braga**, Member of the Italian Parliament
- 12.20 – 13.20**      **Roundtable II – Evolving national and European regulatory frameworks: increasing convergence?**
- **Alberto Villa**, Mayor of Pessano con Bernago, Chair of the Environment Commission – Italian National Association of Municipalities
  - **Jon Rathjen**, Water Industry Team Leader, Scottish Government
  - **Paola Briani**, Vice-President, Viveracqua
  - **Gerry Galvin**, Chief Technical Officer, Irish Water
- Moderated by **Paolo Romano**, President, Società Metropolitana Acque Torino*
- 13.15 – 13.30**      **Conclusions**  
**Alessandro Russo**, Vice-President of APE

*Working languages: English / Italian*

## SPEAKERS

**CÉLIA BLAUDEL**, President of APE and Deputy-Mayor of Paris



Since the Municipal elections of March 2014, Célia Blauel is Paris Deputy Mayor in charge of the Environment, Sustainable Development, the Climate Plan for Energy, and Hydric resources and counselor of the City of Paris. In June 2014, she was elected President of “Eau de Paris”, the public water operator serving French capital.

Celia BLAUDEL, 36 years old, obtained a degree from the Strasbourg Institute of Political Studies in 2003. A member of the Green Party since 2006, she is particularly active in matters such as housing, health, and environment. In addition, during two years she has worked for the INPES, the National Institute for Health

Prevention and Education, as the responsible for national communication campaigns relating to the use of alcohol, psychoactive substances, and addictions.

**VERONICA MANFREDI**, Director, Directorate General for Environment – European Commission



Since February 2018 Veronica Manfredi is the Director for Quality of Life in DG Environment in the European Commission. She thus now oversees the correct implementation and development of key EU law in the areas of Air Quality, Water Quality, including the protection of river, lake and marine environments, as well as of the Industrial Emissions and the Seveso Directives.

Between 2011 and 2018, she was Head of the Consumer and Marketing Law Unit in DG Justice, overseeing the effective implementation and development of no less than 10 EU Consumer Law Directives and preparing the 2018 New Deal for Consumers package. Between 2002 and 2011 she worked as a Cabinet member in the Prodi, Barroso I and Barroso II Commissions: she first assisted the Internal Market Commissioner Frits Bolkestein and then Vice-President Siim Kallas in the Portfolio for Administration, Audit and Anti-Fraud issues, following him shortly also in his subsequent Portfolio for

Transport. Before joining the European Commission in 1999, Veronica worked for the Italian and European Chambers of Commerce, providing support to SMEs on a broad range of topics. She is a lawyer by background, who deepened her knowledge of International and EU law in Rome, Turin, Kiel, Bruges and Brussels.

**ANDREA GUERRINI**, President, WAREG - European Network of Water Regulators



**Andrea Guerrini** is Commissioner of ARERA, the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment ([www.arera.it](http://www.arera.it)), and President of WAREG, the Association of European Water Regulators ([www.wareg.org](http://www.wareg.org)). From 2016 until his nomination in ARERA in August 2018, he was President of the Public Operator of the City of Livorno ([www.asaspa.it](http://www.asaspa.it)). Mr Guerrini is professor of Performance Management, Planning and Control in the Department of Business Economics at the University of Verona, where he has been researching and teaching water utilities and regulation. He is the author of numerous publications, including monographs and articles for international reviews. In 2014 he wrote a book on “Water management in Italy: Governance, Performance and Sustainability”

and in 2018 a book on “Management of water services companies. An operational manual for management and control”. He has been leading research projects financed by the EU, and was one of the founders of the Water Management and Technology Research Centre. Prof. Guerrini has been drafting the tariff methodology for drinking water services for the City of Bolzano.

**GABOR TILL**, Senior Advisor, Budapest Waterworks



Gábor Till is senior consultant at Budapest Waterworks since 2014. He is responsible for international relations, EU-funded projects, and research and innovation activities. He graduated as engineer from the Technical University of Budapest and has a diploma in management studies from the Buckinghamshire Chilterns University. During the past thirty years, Gábor Till worked in different technical and managerial positions within Hungarian and multinational companies. Its main fields of activities are water and waste water management, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning, machinery industry and energetics, and co-generation. He also spent several years in the municipal sector and has experience in project management, international relations and consultancy in various fields and industries.

**ERIC SMIT**, President, Société Wallonne des Eaux – Aquawal



Eric Smit is the President of Aquawal, the federation of public water operators of Wallonia Region, Belgium. He is a member of the Executive Committee of *Société Wallonne des Eaux*, the main water supply operator in Wallonia. Eric Smit graduated in physics and economics at the Belgian universities of UCL and ULB.

He worked as Inspector-General of Finances and is Former Deputy Chief of Staff of the Belgian Federal Vice-Prime Minister as well as Former Chief of Staff of the Regional Minister of Budget and Finance in Wallonia.

**THOMAS VAN GILST**, Head of Water Division, European Investment Bank



Thomas van Gilst is Head of the Water Security and Resilience Division (previously “Water Management”) within the European Investment Bank’s Projects Directorate since 2016. The Bank finances some EUR 3 to 4 billion worth of water & wastewater as well as flood protection projects annually and follows the investments from preparation up to completion of works.

Trained as a water resources engineer at the Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands, he first worked with Royal Haskoning, a Netherlands based Engineering Consulting firm as consultant in the fields of irrigation, water and wastewater and urban drainage. He later worked in business development with Enron and Thames Water, both in London. With Thames Water, he was heavily involved in setting up

WSUP (Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor), a private sector-NGO-academia based partnership focusing on providing sustainable water and sanitation services in peri-urban areas in developing countries. Since joining the EIB in 2006 he has been in charge of a broad portfolio of water sector projects financed by the Bank both inside and outside Europe through a variety of financial products.  
[vangilst@eib.org](mailto:vangilst@eib.org).

**NICOLA DE SANCTIS**, CEO, Acquedotto Pugliese



Nicola De Sanctis is Chief Executive Officer at Acquedotto Pugliese and has been working for Acquedotto Pugliese since 2016. Between 2005 and 2015 he held the position of Chief Executive Officer at Iren and Edison Energie Speciali, Iren and E.ON Italia – some of the biggest multi-utilities in Italy – focusing on energy markets and renewable energy production. Mr De Sanctis professional background also encompasses a long experience in the waste management sector. He holds an MBA and a BSC in Nuclear Engineering.



**JON RATHJEN**, Water Industry Team Leader, Scottish Government



Jon has over 25 years' experience as a Public Servant having worked for Customs and Excise and now the Scottish Government.

Jon Rathjen is the team leader of the Water Industry Team in the Scottish Government with policy responsibility for the Scottish Water Industry including sponsorship of the public corporation Scottish Water and the new Hydro Nation agenda. Scotland 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.

**PAOLA BRIANI**, Vice-President, Viveracqua



Paola Briani is a lawyer with a long experience as a trustee of public bodies. She is the author of scientific articles for legal journals, such as Iura Civitatis. Ms Briani has acquired an advanced experience in the water sector and is a member of Acque Veronesi's Management Board since July 2015, as well as a member of Aqua Publica Europea's Management Board since October 2015, where she sits as representative of Viveracqua. She is also a member of the Water Committee of the Italian association of utility utilities, Utilitalia. Ms Briani has collaborated with Members of the Italian Parliament on legislative proposal on water and environment-related issues. She also collaborated with Members of the European Parliament, with particular reference to the topic of emerging pollutants in water.

**GERRY GALVIN**, Chief Technical Officer, Irish Water



Gerry Galvin is a civil engineer who joined Irish Water on its establishment in 2013 as Chief Technical Officer where he maintains a strategic technical oversight of a range of functions across the business, advising the management team on key business risks with a strong focus on Health & Safety, R&D and innovation, including forming and maintaining links with research bodies, enterprise agencies and international water organizations.

Having worked for a local authority and a consulting engineering firm in his early career, Gerry previously worked for over 20 years in the Department of Environment, Community & Local Government, the last 10 of which as Principal Adviser (Water) where he headed up the Water Inspectorate Unit responsible for providing professional and technical advice on all matters relating to water including the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP). Prior to the establishment of Irish Water, the WSIP funded water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades.

**PAOLO ROMANO**, President, Società Metropolitana Acque Torino



Paolo Romano graduated in engineering from the Polytechnic school of Torino. He has worked for years in water services management companies as Director and Chief Executive Officer. He is currently Chairman of SMAT - Società Metropolitana Acque Torino S.p.A., a fully public-owned company that manages the Integrated Water Service in 292 Municipalities for over 2.2 million inhabitants. He is member of numerous expert-groups at national and international level in the water sector, including: member of the Board Aqua Publica Europea, President of Nord Ovest Servizi, member of the Board of Utilitalia (the Italian association of service utilities), Vice President of Hydroaid, Spokesperson for the Public Water Network "Water Alliance - Piedmont Waters" and represents Utilitalia in the Po River District Observatory.

**ALESSANDRO RUSSO**, Vice-President of APE



Since 2014, Alessandro Russo is President at CAP Holding-Gruppo CAP, the leading 100% public water service management company of the Metropolitan City of Milan. Mr Russo is also Vice-President of Aqua Publica Europea, the European Association of Public Water Managers and Confservizi Cispel Lombardia, the Association of Companies and Local Government Services of Lombardy Region. He has been recently elected Vice-President of Utilitalia, the Italian Federation of service utilities. Mr Russo holds a degree in Political Science and a Master in Business Administration.

## DIRECTIONS

Aqua Publica Europea's seminar will take place within the WATEC Fair, Cremona Italy.

Access to the Fair is via the West entrance ("ingresso ovest"). At the reception, you will find a dedicated "registration desk" for our seminar. Please go directly to our desk, where you will receive your badge to access the Fair.

The seminar will be in Pavilion 1, room "smart agriculture".

