

## PUBLIC SEMINAR

# RESILIENCE IN ACTION: TOWARDS A COORDINATED EFFORT FOR A SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (ROOM PHS7C50)

**14 FEBRUARY 2024 / 14:00 - 16:00 CET**

## AGENDA

**13:00 - 14:00**

### **WELCOME LUNCH**

**14:00 - 14:05**

### **WELCOME ADDRESS**

Sandra Pereira – Member of the European Parliament

**14:05 - 14:20**

### **KEYNOTE**

Alain Maron – Brussels Minister for Climate Transition, the Environment, Energy, Social Action and Health

**14:20 - 15:00**

### **SESSION I - THE GOVERNANCE OF WATER RESILIENCE: WHICH INGREDIENTS?**

Claire Baffert – Senior Water Policy Officer at WWF and Co-Author of the Report "Water for Nature, Water for Life: Adapting to Europe's Water Scarcity Challenge"

Sonja Koeppel – Secretary of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Luca Perez – Deputy Head of Unit for Sustainable Freshwater Management at the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment

Bernard Van Nuffel – President of Aqua Publica Europea, President of VIVAQUA and Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Jette

**15:00 - 15:15**

### **COFFEE BREAK**

**15:15 - 15:55**

### **SESSION II - FINANCING WATER RESILIENCE: TOWARDS A NEW ECONOMIC MODEL?**

Marco Beroš – Lead Engineer at the European Investment Bank (EIB)

Aude Farnault – Coordinator of the OECD Roundtable on Financing Water

Andrea Guerrini – President of the Association of European Water Regulators (WAREG) and Commissioner of the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA)

Roberto Mantovanelli – Vice-President of Aqua Publica Europea and President of Acque Veronesi

**15:55 - 16:00**

### **CONCLUSION**

Anja Haga – Member of the European Parliament

## SPEAKERS



### **Claire Baffert**

Senior Water Policy Officer at WWF and Co-Author of the Report "Water for Nature, Water for Life: Adapting to Europe's Water Scarcity Challenge"

Claire Baffert works as a Senior Policy Officer on freshwater for the WWF European Policy Office. In her position, she chairs the Living Rivers Europe NGO coalition composed of six Brussels-based NGOs working to improve the protection of rivers, lakes and groundwater in Europe. Before joining WWF, she has worked for several Brussels-based organisations on environmental policies and project management. In 2013, she co-authored the report "Water for Nature, Water for Life: Adapting to Europe's Water Scarcity Challenge".



### **Marco Beroš**

Lead Engineer at the European Investment Bank (EIB)

Marco Beroš joined the Water Division of the European Investment Bank's Projects Directorate in Luxemburg in 2009. In his current position, he follows water, sanitation and flood protection projects in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Pacific. Prior to joining the European Investment Bank, he has worked for more than 10 years at Veolia Water Paris' suburbs operational services for SEDIF. He then joined SEURECA, Veolia Water's consultancy where he worked on projects in about 30 countries in Europe, Africa and Asia. Marco Beroš has held training courses, published several papers and worked in task groups of the European standardisation.



### **Aude Farnault**

Coordinator of the OECD Roundtable on Financing Water

Aude Farnault works as a Policy Analyst on water finance and economics at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)'s Environment Directorate. She leads the OECD Roundtable on Financing Water, a global public-private platform that aims to facilitate increased financing of investments that contribute to water security and sustainable growth. She is the co-author of working papers on the economics of the Water Framework Directive, in collaboration with the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment. Prior to joining the OECD, Aude Farnault worked in Senegal on economic analyses and infrastructure financing, including in water.



### **Andrea Guerrini**

President of the Association of European Water Regulators (WAREG) and Commissioner of the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment (ARERA)

Andrea Guerrini is Commissioner of the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks, and Environment (ARERA), President of the Association of European Regulators (WAREG) and a member of the Bureau of the Network of Economic Regulators at the OECD. In addition to these positions, he 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. Andrea Guerrini is the author of numerous publications and is a co-founder of the Water Management and Technology Research Centre.



**Anja Haga**  
Member of the European Parliament

Led by a strong passion for environmental conservation, Anja Haga is determined to impact the planet positively for generations to come. As a Member of the European Parliament, she advocates for environmentally friendly solutions and fights for the protection of freedom of religion and belief. She is a former Alderman of the city of Arnhem, located in the eastern part of the Netherlands, and served as a Provincial Council Member and Faction Leader for the Dutch province of Friesland. She also used to work as Strategic Policy Advisor for the Dutch Forestry Department.



**Sonja Koeppel**  
Secretary of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Sonja Koeppel has been working for more than 15 years in the secretariat of the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva. She is currently Secretary to the Convention and Co-Secretary to the Protocol on Water and Health, jointly serviced by UNECE and WHO/Europe. She was previously coordinating the activities on climate change adaptation under the Convention and servicing different Convention bodies. Prior to joining UNECE, she worked for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi.



**Roberto Mantovanelli**  
Vice-President of Aqua Publica Europea and President of Acque Veronesi

A management engineer by training, Roberto Mantovanelli has worked as a freelancer in management consulting, operations and supply chain. 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 of which he became Vice-President in 2023. Roberto Mantovanelli is also the President of Sogesid, an "in house providing" engineering company of the Italian Ministry for the Environment and Energy Security and the Italian Ministry for Infrastructure and Transport whose main competences include the protection of water resources.



**Alain Maron**  
Brussels Minister for Climate Transition, the Environment, Energy, Social Action and Health

As the Minister for Environmental Affairs and Health, Alain Maron is keenly attuned to the connection between the environment and human well-being. He is actively striving to transform Brussels into a green and carbon-neutral region by 2050, with the goal of enhancing the health of its residents. His efforts aim not only to position the region at the forefront of safeguarding its population from the impacts of climate change but also to create an inclusive community. This inclusive approach ensures that the benefits of the climate transition primarily reach those in Brussels who are most in need.



**Sandra Pereira**  
Member of the European Parliament

Sandra Pereira has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2019. She is an active member of the AGRI, EMPL, FEMM and ITRE committees and Vice President of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly. Born in Alvoco da Serra, Seia, Portugal, she is also the Director of the Sports and Recreational Society of Outeiro da Vinha (SDROV). From 2015 to 2019, she served as the President of the Association of Scientific Research Fellows (ABIC), the Portuguese association of grant-holding researchers. Sandra Pereira holds a position as professional linguist and researcher at the Center of Linguistics of the University of Lisbon.



**Luca Perez**  
Deputy Head of Unit for Sustainable Freshwater Management at the European Commission's Directorate General for Environment

Luca Perez works for the European Commission in the unit responsible for the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive and the EU Floods Directive. Just before that, he worked as Deputy Head of Unit responsible for Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation where he also served as EU Focal Point for the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the UNECE Water Convention. He previously worked at the Directorate General for Research and Innovation on research projects in the area of climate change and in climate change negotiations under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



**Bernard Van Nuffel**  
President of Aqua Publica Europea, President of VIVAQUA and Deputy Mayor of the municipality of Jette

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.

## MODERATOR



**Nuria Hernández-Mora**  
Board Member at Fundación Nueva Cultura del Agua (FNCA)

Nuria Hernández-Mora is a senior water policy researcher and consultant. She has over 25 years of experience in research and consulting on environmental issues, focusing in the past 20 years primarily on water governance in the EU context. Her work focuses on public policy and governance analysis, public participation and co-production processes, and hydroclimatic risk management and adaptation. She has advised local, regional and national governments in Spain on water policy analysis and development and on drought risk management plans. She has also been a consultant for the European Commission and the World Bank.