

EWA/NWA Spring Seminar 2025:

Shaping the Future of Water Management in Europe:
Increasing the Value of Water Through the Revised UWWTD



28.05.2025



Oslo, Norway

or



online (live stream)



The revised Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) will come into effect on January 1, 2025, meaning its transposition into national law must be completed by June 30, 2027.

The European Water Association (EWA) is dedicating its 2025 Spring Seminar to this topic, in partnership with the Norwegian Water Association (NWA).

While scientific studies have increasingly supported the need for the revised UWWTD, its implementation presents significant challenges for utilities across Europe.

The goal of this conference is to create a platform for better understanding these challenges and to explore ways in which utilities and authorities can collaborate to improve European waters.

PROGRAM

09:00 Start of the conference

Welcome address

Moderator: Arthur Guischet, Secretary General, EWA

Maria Ystrøm Bislingen, President, Norwegian Water Association

Opening remarks, Harsha Ratnaweera, (Vice)President, European Water Association

Setting the scene:

Overview of the recast of the UWWTD and the responses from the member countries so far

Moderator: Arthur Guischet, Secretary General, EWA

Keynote by Michel Sponar, Deputy Head of Unit at the European Commission, Directorate General for the Environment

Session I: European water resources: status and impact of pollution in the context of emerging pressures

Moderator: Arthur Guischet, Secretary General, EWA

- Overview of impacts of wastewater discharges (>10 000pe) on Norwegian recipients, Christian Vogelsang, Norwegian Institute for Water Research-NIVA.
- Wastewater challenges and opportunities in the Danube Region: A State of the Sector Report perspective". Elisabeta Poci, Executive Director. Water Supply and Sewerage Association of Albania

Session II: The Revised Urban Wastewater Directive: Managing impacts with conventional and innovative technologies

Moderator: Joahannes Lohaus, former Secretary General, EWA

- The apparent paradox in legislation (and how to deal with it) Experience from Belgium. Jan Goossens, CEO, Aquafin, Belgium
- One well-proven way for meeting the new EU directive standard on N-removal in Norway, Prof em. Hallvard Ødegaard, SET AS/Norwegian University of Science and Technology
- Innovative technologies for quaternary wastewater treatment, Thomas Wintgens, Professor, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

Award of the Dunbar medal

and the address by the 2025 laureate **Professor Dr. Ir. Jules B. van Lier**, Netherlands

- Awarding ceremony
- Award of the medal: President of the EWA and Collin Davis, Executive Director Messe Muenchen.
- Dunbar speech

Session III: Panel discussion: The Way forward for a common future

Moderator: Arthur Guischet, Secretary General, EWA

- Are we on route to implement the revised UWWTD?
- How can we enhance synergies between utilities and policy makers?
- What should be the next topic for a Europe-wide conference?

Michel Sponar (EC), Károly Kovács (Hungary), Jan Goossens (Belgium) and Arne Haarr (Norway)

Session IV: The Revised Urban Wastewater Directive: Stormwater and sewers

Moderator: Thomas Wintgens, Professor, RWTH Aachen University, Germany

- Driving sustainability for piping systems: insights from comparative LCAs to guide environmental impact reduction, Caroline Spirinckx, Project Manager, Flemish Institute for Technological Research, (VITO), Belgium
- Critical reflections on improving the overall water quality by efficiently managing stormwater, Károly Kovács, Chairman, Hungarian Water Partnership
- Benchmarking Combined Sewer Overflows management in practice. Senior Lecturer Alma Schellart, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom
- Q&A

17:00 End of the conference

Registration Information:

28.05.2025 - 09:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Nationaltheatret konferansesenter KS Agenda, OSLO or
Online Streaming

Registration Fees:

In presence :

- Member of EWA: 106€ / NOK 1,250
- Non member of EWA: 165€ / NOK 1,950
- Student or Retired water specialists: 51€ / NOK 600

Online:

- Member of EWA: 51€ / NOK 600
- Non member of EWA: 76€ / NOK 900

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