EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General Environment

Directorate C - Quality of Life, Water & Air
ENV.C.2 - Marine Environment & Water Industry

STAKEHOLDER MEETING
ON A POSSIBLE REVISION OF THE DRINKING WATER DIRECTIVE 98/83/EC

8 DECEMBER 2015

BRUSSELS, BERLAYMONT BUILDING

Summary of the Meeting

The stakeholder meeting on a possible revision of the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) took place at the initiative of the European Commission and is part of the Commission response to the European Citizens' Initiative Right2Water. It brought together participants from water regulators, water utilities, industry and non-governmental organisations. This document provides a summary of presentations, questions, statements and discussion, as well as links to related documents. The agenda with the meeting structure and a list of participants are attached as annexes A and B.
A background document for the meeting (structured along the sessions) as well as all the presentations during the meeting are available at https://circabc.europa.eu/faces/jsp/extension/wai/navigation/container.jsp.

Welcome

M. Malgaj for the Commission welcomed participants and set out the context of the meeting within the ongoing initiatives.

Session I: Setting the scene

P. Strosser (ACTeon) presented
a) the envisaged structure of the meeting with plenary sessions and working groups
- setting the scene in session I;
- analysing which areas of the current DWD would merit improvement (session II);
- looking ahead at evolution of drinking water quality and implementation of the DWD in the future (session III);
- looking at possible adaptations in the DWD or alternative policy options (session IV in working groups, with findings presented in plenary session); and
- arriving at a synthesis of workshop discussions;

b) the objectives of the meeting
- to validate the shortcomings of the current EU drinking water policy and the Drinking Water Directive identified, along with their main underlying causes;
- to identify areas for improvements (options) that could help strengthen the current EU drinking water policy;
- to collect views of stakeholders on the feasibility and potential impacts of these options.

Session II: Which areas of the current DWD need improvement?

As part of the initiatives following the European Citizens' Initiative Right2Water, the Commission has commissioned a study "Evaluation of the EU Drinking Water Directive) by a consortium (Ecorys Nederland BV, Alterra / Netherlands, ACTeon / France), KWR Watercycle Research Institute / Netherlands, and REC / Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe; authors: Erik Klaassens, Hans Kros, Paul Romkens, Wim de Vries, Adriana Hulsmann and Joachim Schellekens).
E. Klaassens (Ecorys) presented the main results of this draft ex-post evaluation study.

The evaluation assessed to what extent the provisions of the Directive have been effective, efficient, coherent and relevant. It analysed to what extent the actions based on the Directive provided value added at EU level and the coherence with the relevant EU policies. The evaluation covers the period 1998 to 2014.

For the methodology, an intervention logic was developed, visualising links between policy objectives, activities, actors and intended outcomes (see following page).

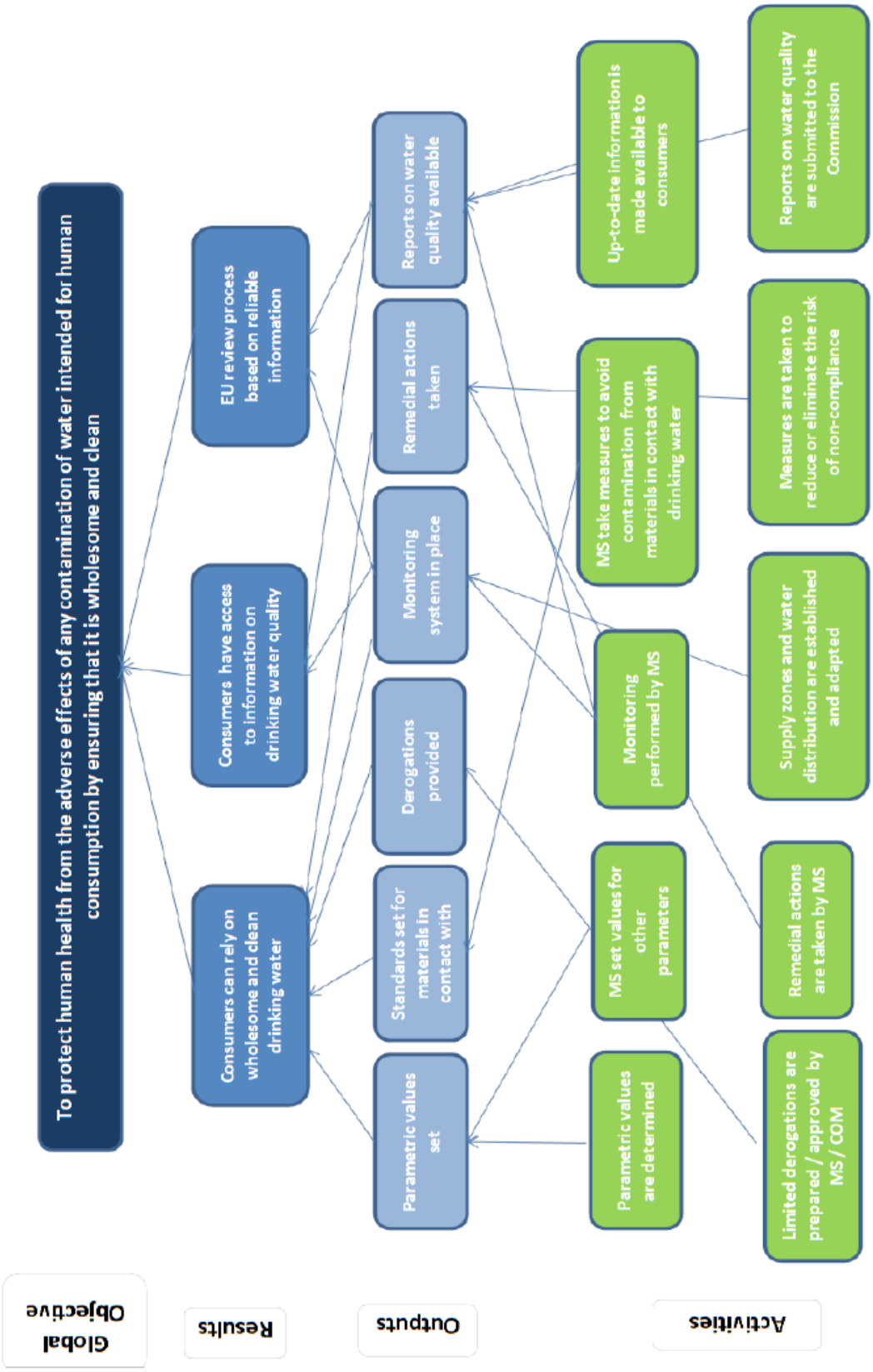
The presentation outlined the results as regards the five evaluation criteria (for reference, in parenthesis the relevant pages of the study for the five criteria):
- effectiveness (pp 25-49);
- efficiency (pp 49-68);
- coherence (pp 68-76);
- relevance (pp 76-87); and
- EU added value (pp 88-92).

The full text of the draft study is available at http://www.safe2drink.eu/dwd-evaluation.

The draft study concludes that in general the DWD is still fit for purpose. The Directive
- is a relevant piece of legislation;
- protects the health of EU citizens;
- has efficient mechanisms to implement measures;
- provides added value at EU level.

At the same time certain elements meriting improvement have been addressed, e.g.
- Triannual reporting of drinking water data by Member States to the Commission shows a high degree of formal compliance. However in substance and timing it is insufficient to perform a thorough compliance check and adequately inform e.g. the European Parliament;
- Comparison of information provided to consumers has revealed considerable differences between Member States regarding the quality of reporting. Important in this context are the findings of the 2014 public consultation on the quality of drinking water concluding the consumer satisfaction on the information provided is only 20% http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/water_drink_en.htm.

Intervention logic



Comments by participants on session II:

- One contribution addressed further drinking water parameters: consideration should as well be given to parameters legionella and uranium. On this issue, the Commission explained that the study was not supposed to address individual parameters; however, this will comprehensively be explored in the forthcoming study together with the World Health Organisation (WHO).
- Further contributions highlighted the importance of distinguishing between drinking water quality (as addressed by the Drinking Water Directive) and protection of resources for drinking water supply (in particular the Water Directive /WFD). Responsibility for such resources protection must not be passed on from polluters and/or responsible authorities to drinking water utilities.

Session III: Looking ahead: How will drinking water (quality) and the implementation of the DWD evolve in the future?

E. Klaassens (Ecorys) presented considerations on the following topics

- Impacts of climate change;
- Monitoring and analysis (new technologies);
- Infrastructure (new materials); and
- Changing/increasing demand of consumers.

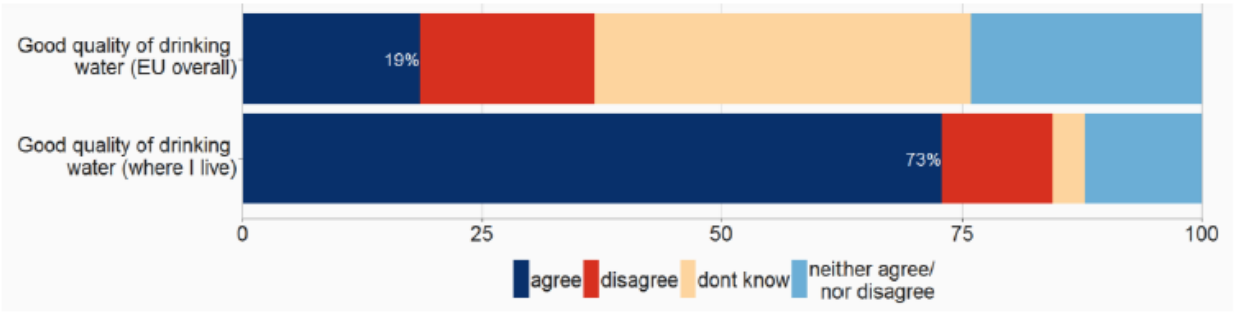
Impacts of climate change entail on the qualitative side inter alia increasing water temperatures provided higher risk for development of water-borne bacteria, parasites and viruses; increased release of particles from piping and plumbing systems; increased degradation rates for some pesticides and other organic pollutants; lower efficiency of some drinking water treatment systems.
On the quantitative side, changes in precipitation patterns may increase the probability of droughts including low flows in rivers used for drinking water abstraction and reduced aquifer recharge; increase probability and intensity of floods including risk to drinking water and waste water infrastructure and increased run-off from soil and agricultural areas.

On *monitoring and ensuing remedial action*, emerging pollutants such as micro-plastics or pharmaceutical products will increasingly pose a challenge not least because of socio-economic developments, and will entail consideration of preventive and remedial action well beyond traditional environmental legislation. At the same time, new methods of analysis will become available, necessitating legislation that does not pose a barrier to innovation and allow for unbureaucratic approaches (e.g. mutual recognition of alternative methods under article 7(5) and annex III DWD).

On *materials in contact with drinking water and substances used in treatment processes*, continuation of approaches of only national approval systems may cause additional expenses as well as reduced opportunities for providing goods and services in an EU-wide market.

Consumers will increasingly demand more and better information (see findings of the 2014 public consultation on drinking water quality). Beyond sheer compliance information on drinking water quality, information on possible risks as well as economic information (pricing) should be considered. On consumer confidence, findings of the 2014 public consultation about trust in drinking water quality at home compared to drinking water quality elsewhere needs to be addressed: According to the consultation, about 70% of

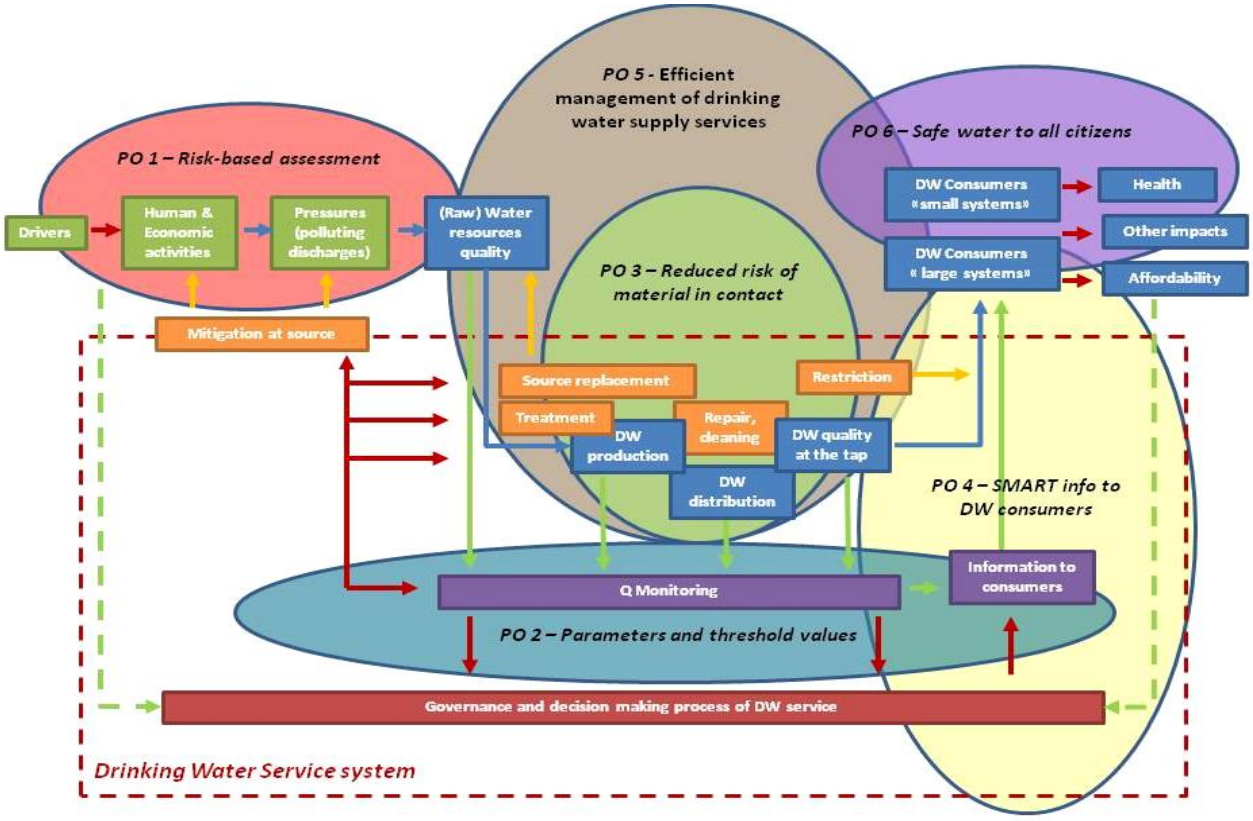
respondents consider the water quality good and acceptable at the places they live, however less than 20% believe this is the same in the other parts of Europe.



Source: European Commission

Comments by participants on session III:
One contribution addressed the challenge of monitoring emerging new substances currently not covered by annex I.

Session IV: Which possible adaptations for the DWD or alternative policy options?



As outlined in the agenda and the introduction, session IV addressed in four distinct working groups selected issues, with the groups at the end reporting their findings to the plenary session.

Groups 1 and 3 addressed risk-based management, parameters and materials/substances in contact with drinking water:

Water safety plans were considered to deliver key complementary elements for safe drinking water. On details of risk management, guidelines should be developed. Whilst inclusion of all stakeholders is indispensable, also communication with consumers appears important in the context of risk management, as consumers might otherwise perceive flexibility as less safety in their drinking water. When developing and implementing water safety plans, better understanding of the WFD and better interaction with its implementation will be a crucial element for success of protecting drinking water from source to tap.

On emerging substances, the group concluded that the DWD should not regulate these substances, but define approaches on how to deal with them.

On materials in contact with drinking water a common methodology should be developed, as indeed the current situation prevailing appears unsatisfactory[1]. Further considerations should be based on the results of the ongoing assessment within the study commissioned by the Commission. However, merely copying the provisions of food legislation is not perceived as the approach to take.

Groups 2 and 4 addressed information to consumers, efficient water management and access to drinking water:

Not least against the findings of the 2014 public consultation, efforts are required to boost consumer confidence in drinking water quality. Upon the question of a 'water quality label', such a label may not be compared with existing energy consumption labels, as indeed for drinking water limit values are established – making the term 'safe drinking water' operational in numerical values. Positive experience with a drinking water label has been reported from Portugal.

Benchmarking is considered an important element of efficient water management; however such benchmarking should be done at national/regional level, not EU-wide.

Access to drinking water should be addressed in an approach similar to the one already existing on waste water[2], i.e. an obligation for Member States to provide their citizens with safe drinking water. Whilst this objective has already been achieved in many Member States, this is not the case in all, in particular for the poorer segment of the population ('bottom 40%'); cf. figures presented at a 12 October 2015 meeting within the Commission Stakeholder Dialogue on Benchmarking.[3] Consequently, there is a need for action towards 'safe drinking water for all'.

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[1] Article 10 "Quality assurance of treatment, equipment and materials Member States shall take all measures necessary to ensure that no substances or materials for new installations used in the preparation or distribution of water intended for human consumption or impurities associated with such substances or materials for new installations remain in water intended for human consumption in concentrations higher than is necessary for the purpose of their use and do not, either directly or indirectly, reduce the protection of human health provided for in this Directive; . . . . ."

[2] Directive 91/271/EEC concerning urban waste water treatment, including the plausible exemption clauses set out there.

[3] World Bank and International Association of Water Supply Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area "Water and wastewater services in the Danube region: a state of the sector", Vienna May 2015

Conclusions: T. Biermann

After expressing thanks on behalf of the Commission to participants as well as the consultants team for their input, he invited possible additional comments on the draft evaluation study by 14 December 2015.

Participants are invited to send comments on today's stakeholder meeting and the draft options, by the end of January 2016. A specific 'DWD_stakeholder workshop_Evaluation form' has been distributed and is available on the project website. Position papers and general comments are welcome at any time also after January.

He outlined the next steps in the context of a possible revision of the DWD:

- The Commission will during 2016 elaborate a Staff Working Document based on the final version of the ex-post evaluation study and comments received within the stakeholder consultation process, and publish a Roadmap to the Impact Assessment; the Impact Assessment Study is to be finalised before summer 2016. On detailed steps towards an Impact Assessment, a specific timetable has yet to be set.

- On materials in contact with drinking water, a study is currently ongoing. Comments and contribution are welcome.

- The Commission-WHO joint study reviewing the parameters for drinking water will commence in 2016; timetable still to be set.

- January 2016 will see back-to-back
  - a seminar on protection of drinking water from source to tap (21 January), and
  - the next regular DWD expert meeting (22 January).

- A further stakeholder meeting on drinking water is envisaged for September 2016.

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http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/05/24482172/water-wastewater-services-danube-region-state-sector; 2011 Regional Survey by UNDP, World Bank and European Commission

Safe Water for Europe: issues and options

Second Stakeholder's Workshop

Organized by the European Commission
Brussels, 8th of December 2015

Workshop agenda

Timing	Session	What?	Who?
09:00	Registration of participants	Registration, distribution of background document and final agenda, priority selection of working groups	
10:00	**Session I - Opening session: setting the scene**		
10:00		Opening address	EC
10:10		The stakeholder workshop: what for? And how? Objectives, agenda, organisation and facilitation	ACTeon
10:20		Clarifying questions, expectations from participants	All participants – facilitation ACTeon
10:30	**Session II - Which areas of the current DWD need improvements?**		
10:30		- The results of the ex-post evaluation study	Ecorys
10:45		-Questions and clarifications -Discussion: Visions/reactions from different MS?	All participants – facilitation Ecorys
11:15	Coffee Break		
11:45	**Session III - Looking ahead: how will drinking water (quality) and the implementation of the DWD evolve in the future?**		
11:45		The session: objectives, structure, expected outcome	ACTeon
11:50		How would drinking water quality – and the implementation of the DWD - evolve in the future with the DWD as it stands today?	Ecorys and Alterra
12:00		General discussion on the following issues 1. What possible (additional) health risks and problems are likely to arise – and should be tackled? 2. What are other key drivers and factors that are likely to affect – positively or negatively, directly or indirectly – the implementation of the DWD in coming years? 3. Which drivers/problems should be tackled in priority – and how?	All participants – facilitation ACTeon
13:00	**Lunch**		

Timing	Session	What?	Who?
14:00	**Session IV - Which possible adaptations for the DWD or alternative policy options?**		
14:00		The session: - Objectives, structure, expected outcome - Introduction on the identification and prioritization of policy options - Instructions about working group sessions (key questions addressed, division into groups, selection of rapporteur....)	ACTeon
14:15		Working Groups (WGs) addressing different thematic areas for which possible improvements have been identified. Each group will address the following issues: 1. Policy options identified under the thematic focus: reviewing and clarifying them, proposing some new options (and justifying their relevance), identifying the priority/most appropriate option(s). 2. For the preferred policy option identified, discuss: (a) pre-conditions for success (b) expected efforts and costs (c) expected main positive and negative impacts 3. Preparing synthesis (key messages) of the working group discussion for reporting to the plenary session	Facilitation by ACTeon, Ecorys, REC and Alterra
15:30	**Session V - Synthesis of the workshop discussions**		
15:30		The session's objectives, structure, expected outcome... including distribution of the workshop evaluation questionnaire	ACTeon
15:35		Reporting from individual WGs (5 minutes each)	Working group rapporteurs
15:55		General discussion	All participants
16:15		Filling the workshop evaluation questionnaire	All participants
16:20		The way forward	EC
16:25		Closing words	EC
16:30	**End of the workshop**		

First name	Surname	Position	Organisation / Company	Nationality	Type of organisation / company
Jelka	Appelman	Senior Policy Advisor Drinking Water	Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment	Netherlands	Government and/or regulator
Ellen	Baltzar	Environmental consultant	REC - Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe	Sweden	Consultancy
Malte	Becker	Managing Director	MB Brussels	Germany	Consultancy
Katrin	Behnke	Programme Officer	ANEC - European Association for the Co-ordination of Consumer Representation in Standardisation	Germany	NGO or (local) civic organisation
Tobias	Biermann	Policy Officer	European Commission, DG ENV	Commission Staff	Government and/or regulator
Helmut	Bloech	Administrative support team for Commission	KWR, Netherlands	Austria	Consultancy
Esther	Boer	EU Affairs	VEWIN (Association of Dutch Water Utilities) and Unie van Waterschappen (Association of Water Boards)	Netherlands	Utilities association, governments and/or regulator
Annalisa	Bortoluzzi	Manager EHS	Eurometaux – European Association of Metals	Italy	Industry association
Corina	Carpentier	Water Quality Monitoring Expert / Managing Director	Benten Water Solutions B.V.	Netherlands	Consultancy
Claudia	Castell-Exner	Vice President	EurEau - European Federation of National Associations of Water Services	Germany	Utilities association
Julien	Chalet	Technical Commission Secretary	Europump – Europ. Association of Pump Manufacturers	France	Industry association
Carla	Chiaretti	Policy officer	EurEau - European Federation of National Associations of Water Services	Belgium	Utilities association

First name	Surname	Position	Organisation / Company	Nationality	Type of organisation / company
Davide	Chiuch	Managing Director	CAP Holding S.p.A.	Italy	Utility
Ingrid	Chorus	Head of Division	Umweltbundesamt	USA	Government and/or regulator
Wennemar	Cramer	Adviser Water Policy	CEEP (European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services) and VEWIN (Association of Dutch Water Utilities)	Netherlands	Utilities association
Els	De Roeck	Policy officer	European Commission	Belgium	Government and/or regulator
Thijs	de Wolff	General Secretary	GCP Europe	Netherlands	Industry association
Anna	Di Mauro	Environmental Engineer	EIP Action Group	Italy	Other
Laurence	Dockter	Policy officer	Stadtwerke Köln GmbH	France	Utility
Bianca	Drogosch	Policy Officer	Verband Kommunaler Unternehmen / German Association of Local Public Utilities	Germany	Utilities association
Milo	Fiasconaro	Executive Director	Aqua Publica Europea	Italy	Utilities association
Anthony	Frost	Convenor	ICPCDW (EU Industry Consortium for Products in Contact with Drinking Water)	UK	Industry association
Dominique	Gatel	Director for Institutional Relations	Veolia	France	Utility
Dirk	Halet	Strategic Coordinator	Flanders Knowledge Center Water	Belgium	Other
Balazs	Horvath	Senior Policy Officer	European Environmental Bureau (EEB)	Hungary	NGO or (local) civil organisation
Johannes	Imminger	Policy officer Sustainability	CEEP - European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services	Germany	Utilities association
Annette	Jantzen	Policy Officer	Aqua Publica Europea	Germany	Utilities association

First name	Surname	Position	Organisation / Company	Nationality	Type of organisation / company
Pieter	Jonker	Vice-chairman Task Force Water	CEEP - European Centre of Employers and Enterprises providing Public Services	Netherlands	Utilities association
Erik	Klaassens	Consultant	Ecorys	Netherlands	Consultancy
Ralf	Koenig	Director Regulatory Affairs Water	Hach	Germany	Equipment manufacturer, Other
Violeta	Kuzmickaite	Senior adviser for EU and International Affairs	WssTP / Vlakwa	Lithuania	Other
Fried	Lauterbach	Representative of an industry association	Aqua Europa	Germany	Industry association
Torbjörn	Lindberg	Government Inspector	National Food Agency	Sweden	Government and/or regulator
Jim	Marshall	Policy and Business Adviser	Water UK	UK	Utilities association
Irina	Messerschmidt	Director	EUnited Valves	Germany	Industry association
Katarina	Nedog	Safety and Regulatory Manager	EGA - European Generic and Biosimilar Medicines Association	Slovenia	Industry association
Klaus	Ockenfeld	Management Environment & Health	Deutsches Kupferinstitut on behalf of ECI - European Copper Institute	Germany	Industry association
Darragh	Page	Senior Inspector	Environmental Protection Agency	Ireland	Government and/or regulator
Anne Claire	Rasselet	Secretary General	CEIR - European Association for the Taps and Valves Industry	France	Industry association
Fanny	Rateau	Regulatory affairs manager	European Heating Industry	Austria	Industry association
Line	Ruden	Senior Adviser	Norwegian Food Safety Authority	Norway	Government and/or regulator

First name	Surname	Position	Organisation / Company	Nationality	Type of organisation / company
David	Sánchez	Campaigns officer	Food & Water Europe	Spain	NGO or (local) civil organisation
Joachim	Schellekens	Consultant Energy, Water and Environment	Ecorys	Netherlands	Consultancy
Jan Henrik	Schlattjan	Civil servant	HLPUG - Hessisches Landesprüfungs- und Untersuchungsamt im Gesundheitswesen	Germany	Government and/or regulator
Dr. Michaela	Schmitz	General Manager Water Industry / Water and Wastewater Division	BDEW - German Association of Energy and Water Industries	Germany	Utilities association
Thierry	Schoonejans	Regulatory Leader	Dow AgroSciences; ECPA - European Crop Protection Association	Belgium	Industry; Industrial Association
Luís	Simas	Head of Department	ERSAR - The Water and Waste Services Regulation Authority	Portugal	Government and/or regulator
Pierre	Strosser	Head	ACTeon	France	Consultancy
Fabian	Strotkötter	Policy Advisor	BDEW - German Association of Energy and Water Industries	Germany	Utilities association
Claudia	Topalli	Deputy General Manager	TEPPFA - European Plastic Pipes and Fittings Association	Belgium	Industrial Association
Marco	Vallini	Public Policy Specialist	Nickel Institute	Italy	Industry association
Lydia	Vamvakeridou-Lyroudia	Senior Research Fellow	University of Exeter	Greece	Research centre or university
Gerard	van den Berg	Manager, international projects	KWR, Netherlands	Netherlands	Research centre or university
Ans	Versteegh	Expert drinking water policy advice	RIVM - Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid en Milieu (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment	Netherlands	Research centre or university, Government and/or regulator
Erwin	Wetzel	Director General	European Vending Association	Austria	Industry association