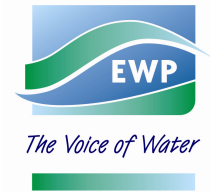


## Introduction European Water Partnership



Dear Sir / Madam,

The current water challenges are among the most fundamental issues Europe will face in the 21st century. Water scarcity and droughts, floods, sanitation, ageing infrastructure and pollution affect large regions in Europe and have to be addressed urgently. Furthermore, these water challenges are closely connected to energy and climate change currently dominating the global political agenda.

Europe benefits from a privileged situation on water resources and has made important progress on water management, infrastructure, technologies and legislation over the past decades. However, two main elements need to be improved urgently to efficiently implement these instruments: awareness and the involvement of all stakeholders.

The EWP was set up in 2006 to address these issues, providing a broader coordination on water, bringing all stakeholders together and improving awareness in Europe. The EWP is an independent, value based, non-profit organisation, with an open and inclusive membership. It harnesses European capacity, helps to coordinate initiatives and activities in international water issues and undertakes worldwide promotion of European expertise related to water. The ultimate goal of the EWP is to elaborate strategies and implement concrete actions to achieve the objectives of the Water Vision for Europe. The text of the Water Vision is attached to this letter.

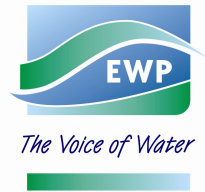
In 2009 the main activities of the EWP are structured in four programmes:

- Aquawareness – *changing behaviour, habits and practices to achieve sustainable water management in Europe.*
  - o The European Water Awareness Programme – *Promoting a water saving efficient culture among European politicians, key stakeholders and citizens.*
  - o The European Water Stewardship Programme – *Establishing a voluntary scheme for sustainable water use in industry.*
- European Dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation and Water – *Setting up a stronger European cooperation and coordination on Climate Change and Water.*
- European Water House – *A concrete location making the Water Vision a reality.*

More information on each specific programme is available on the website of the EWP at [www.ewp.eu](http://www.ewp.eu).

Joining the EWP would provide your organisation with a large number of benefits, including:

- Access to the EWP network and knowledge;
- Participation in the EWP programmes;
- Visibility in activities and events;



- Receiving advanced information on developments, commercial opportunities, and tenders on water. Participation in European consortia;
- Participating actively in developing and improving European policies, programmes and legislation by engaging in the dialogue between the EWP and the European institutions;
- Broadening of traditional water sector boundaries;
- Demonstrating your commitment to addressing the water crisis

In general there are two ways in which you can join the EWP. Firstly, by becoming a member, providing you with all the benefits mentioned above. To apply for membership, you will just have to send in the attached registration form. The second option is to become a project partner of the EWP, contributing in a specific way to one of the EWP programmes, based on a bilateral agreement between your organisation and the EWP.

I hope you will consider joining the European Water Partnership and remain at your disposal for any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Vereijken  
*Chairman, European Water Partnership*

"We have achieved sustainable water resource management and universal access to modern and safe water supply and sanitation because we value water in all its dimensions - in its economic, social, environmental and cultural importance."

(Water Vision for Europe)

