

UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

SIDE EVENT

Water & Health: Going Beyond the WASH approach?

 23 March 2023

 08.00-9.15 EST

 Online



TOPIC

Water for Health: Access to WASH, including the Human Rights to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

NARRATIVE

In January 2023, the new European drinking water legislation enters in force. It opens a new era by guaranteeing to citizens access to drinking water and information related to its quality. The legislation is also updated in line with the new technologies offering opportunities for digital control of water quality.

This example of legislation ensuring access to water for all at a continent level demonstrates the opportunities to recognise a human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. This process is still ongoing as Europe is encouraging circular processing for wastewater management.

There is an opportunity for a paradigm switch to achieve a Water-Smart Society in which digitalisation and the inclusion of new techniques are part of an agile quality control. A risk-based control will become the new standard in Europe, but it stresses some question: How can we go beyond a WASH-silo approach? How can we ensure this agile monitoring? Which examples can we collect?

As a member of the coalition Sanitation for all, Water Europe is committed to support the integration in the EU regulatory landscape access to sanitation and water for all. It is our societal responsibility to leave no one behind.

By taking the best examples and solutions from European market, the partners will support impact and the acceleration of the implementation of technology and projects, contributing to achieving SDG 6 and the 2030 Agenda. The side event partners will invite stakeholders from civil society, research community, public and private sector, and government to discuss how the community is taking actions to ensure safe drinking water.

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AGENDA

5 min Introduction

Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations, Water Europe

3 min Introduction

Marco Romiti, First Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations

10 min Keynote

Panagiotis Balabanis, Head of Sector, Water, DG RTD, European Commission

15 min Keynote

Cristian Carboni, Market Development Manager, De Nora & WE Working Group Leader Water & Health

13 min Keynote

Luisa Rocha Durães, Prof., Head of Department, University of Coimbra, Technical coordinator of H2Oforall EU funded Project

30 min Exchange: How do we need to manage the risk while providing water and sanitation for all?

Moderator

Claudia Topalli, Senior Manager, Regulatory & Government Affairs, IDEXX; Board member of Water Europe; WE Representative in the EU Expert Group on drinking water

Panellist

- Ana Margarida Luís, Board member, Aguas de Portugal international and ADP Valor
- Eline Boelee, Expert in Water-Health interlinkages, Deltares
- Luuk Rietveld, Coordinator of ToDrinq
- Luca Lucentini, Director of the Water Quality and Health Department, Istituto Superiore di Sanità

10 min Conclusion

Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations, Water Europe

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SPEAKERS

Andrea Rubini, Director of Operations, Water Europe



Andrea Rubini holds a master degree in Water Resources Engineering and has over 35 years of international experience in the water and energy sectors, with a particular focus on the impacts related to climate change in urban and industrial ecosystems. In the last 25 years, he has worked within the context of European lobbying in Brussels, where he has acquired a significant knowledge of EU policies for research and innovation and funding programs. He has worked for the Italian Chambers of Commerce system as an R&I expert, for the Delegation of the Presidency of the Lombardy Region at the EU. Andrea has worked at the European Commission (DG REGIO) as a policy advisor and contributed to the completion of the Regional Strategy for Research and Innovation for Smart Specialisation (RIS3). His previous experiences as a program manager at the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), consultant for the African Development Bank, professor at the International Labour Organization (ILO) and other prestigious universities in Europe, Asia, and Africa complete his profile. Andrea is the Director of Operations of Water Europe, the European Technology Platform for Water based in Brussels, and manages the collaboration and implementation programs of the Platform. He represents Water Europe in the Water4All partnerships and in A.SPIRE/Process4Planet as a member of their respective Executive Boards.

Marco Romiti, First Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations

Born in Rome in 1966, Marco Romiti graduated in Political Science from the Sapienza University of Rome and entered a diplomatic career in 1995, starting his professional career at the Farnesina at the Directorate General for Emigration and Social Affairs. His career abroad began in 1998, the year in which he was assigned to the Embassy in Yaoundé. In 2001 he was assigned to the Permanent Representation to the UN in Rome. Back at the Farnesina in 2005, he was assigned to the Directorate General for Personnel and in 2008 he moved to Amsterdam, where he assumed the functions of Consul General. In 2012 he became First Councilor in Rabat. In 2015 he returned to Rome to serve at the Directorate General for the European Union. In 2017 he was Ambassador of Italy to Cameroon. He coordinates of the activities of the II Commission 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



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Panagiotis Balabanis, Head of Sector, Water, DG RTD, European Commission



Since 1990, Panagiotis Balabanis is working at the European Commission, DG Research and Innovation and he is actually Head of the sector Water in the Circular Economy and Biobased Systems Unit. In this context, he is dealing with issues related to water, resource efficiency and circular economy, with a view of supporting the transition to a healthy planet, which is climate neutral by 2050, and operating within safe planetary boundaries. During those years, Panagiotis Balabanis has been involved in the definition and implementation of successive research programmes in the field of water, promoting actions to develop and demonstrate innovative water solutions and to strengthen international cooperation for water research and innovation. development. Panagiotis Balabanis holds a Diploma from the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece, a Master Degree (D.E.A - Diplome de d'Etudes Approfondies) and a Doctorate in "Mechanic of mass and energy exchanges", from the University J.Fourrier, Grenoble I, France. Before joining the European Commission he worked as research associate at the Agricultural University of Athens.

Cristian Carboni, Market Development Manager, De Nora & WE Working Group Leader Water & Health

Cristian Carboni is Manager Innovative Disinfection systems of Industrie De Nora S.p.a. He has more than 20 years of experience in project management, research and technological innovation, author of numerous scientific publications. In Industrie De Nora he collaborates in the development of technologies relating to water and wastewater treatment in particular concerning disinfection. He is member of the scientific committee of Polo Agrifood, member of the Board of Directors of the International Ozone Association, Leader of the Water Europe Working Group Water and Public Health. Since 2017 he has collaborated with the Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME) for the monitoring of the Actions under Horizon 2020; currently external expert of the European Innovation Council and Executive Agency for SMEs (EISMEA).



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Luisa Rocha Durães, Prof., Head of Department, University of Coimbra, Technical coordinator of H2Oforall EU funded Project



Luisa Durães is Associate Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering of University of Coimbra and full member of the Chemical Process Engineering and Forest Products Research Centre. Currently she is the Head of this Department. She concluded her PhD in Chemical Engineering in 2008, specializing in the energetic materials area and, more recently, in the synthesis of nanostructured materials (aerogels, core-shell and/or porous nanoparticles, films), by sol-gel technology and other soft solution approaches for multiple applications. She is/was involved in 22 projects in the area of nanotechnology, most of them aim(ed) the development of surface-modified and reinforced silica nanostructured materials (aerogels, mainly) for thermal insulation and water cleaning. She published ca. 90 peer reviewed papers/book chapters and over 100 papers/abstracts in conference proceedings. Her h-index is 28 (Scopus/WoS). She is co-inventor of 5 international patents (2015, 2022).

Ana Margarida Luís, Board member, Aguas de Portugal international and ADP Valor

Ana Margarida Luís has 30 years' experience in the water sector. She started as a consultant and then joined Aguas de Portugal Group, where she has held various roles and is presently Member of the Board of AdP Valor and AdP Internacional. PhD by Cranfield University on strategic risk management in water utilities, with several published articles, Ana integrates the Policy Advisor Committee of Water Europe and collaborates with the World Bank within the "Utilities of the Future" framework.



Eline Boelee, Expert in Water-Health interlinkages, Deltares



Dr Eline Boelee is an expert in water-health interlinkages at Deltares, with over thirty years of experience in health impacts of water resources development in Africa, Asia and Europe. Deltares, based in the Netherlands, is an independent institute for applied research and smart innovations in the field of water and subsurface. Dr Boelee has led international research projects that address health challenges through water management. For instance via environmental control of water-related diseases; or via multiple use water services for both domestic and productive purposes. Using a systems approach, she and her team advise local, national and regional authorities as well as UN agencies on water management options to increase climate resilience and human health at the same time. Previously Eline had her own company Water Health and worked at the International Water Management Institute. She has published over 40 scientific articles and book chapters.

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Luuk Rietveld, Coordinator of ToDrinq

Luuk Rietveld is professor of Drinking Water & Urban Water Cycle Technology since 2010. After finalizing his studies Civil Engineering at TU Delft in 1987, he worked until 1991 as lecturer Sanitary Engineering at the Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique. Since 1991 he has been working at TU Delft as expert international co-operation, lecturer and assistant, associate and full professor. In 2005 Luuk Rietveld defended his PhD-thesis. The research activities focus on integration and innovation in the Urban Water Cycle and Drinking Water supply. Therefore, fundamental knowledge of the processes is obtained to be able to explain the behaviour of the processes and anticipate on changes and disturbances. The research has been funded by national and international agencies in over 20 projects.



Luca Lucentini, Director of the Water Quality and Health Department, Istituto Superiore di Sanità



Luca Lucentini is Director of the Water Quality and Health Department of the Istituto Superiore di Sanità. Expert for the World Health Organization, the European Union and the United Nations on health issues related to access to water and sanitation, including the development and implementation of legislation, standards and guidelines guidance, scientific opinions, risk analysis processes, training and communication, research, surveillance and control of activities for the protection and safety of use of water resources, the water cycle and the integrated water cycle. Responsible for international cooperation programs and scientific support on water and health in many countries in the European, African and Asian area. Author of over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications in international journals.

Claudia Topalli, Senior Manager, Regulatory & Government Affairs, IDEXX; Board member of Water Europe; WE Representative in the EU Expert Group on drinking water

Claudia Topalli is a senior manager on regulatory and governmental affairs for IDEXX. Before she started at IDEXX, she worked for the European Commission, earlier she was deputy General Manager of one European association dealing with piping systems. Today her work focuses on European affairs dealing with all water related policies. She represents IDEXX, a leader in testing methods for water microbiology, and she is a Board Member of Water Europe, leader of WG Hygiene of Aquaeuropa and member of EWA's policy advisory committee.



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