



## Water news

### Water reuse in the EU

Wastewater can be retreated to the highest standards and used for irrigation schemes, providing farmers with access to much-needed water for their crops.

Overall, water reuse is an important part of the EU's Circular Economy package and has potential to provide environmental and economic benefits right across Europe.

These were the messages from EurEau to MEPs this week from EurEau wastewater expert Roberto Mazzini during a debate in the European Parliament about practices of water reuse across Europe.

Mr Mazzini presented a case study on the Nosedo wastewater treatment plant, near Milan, which provides water almost free of charge to farmers – and they are also given direct control of how the water is allocated.

He also explained how sewage treatment is used for heating a nearby hospital – demonstrating another wider economic and resource benefit that the water sector can provide.

Members of EurEau and other stakeholders are currently working with Thomas Petitguyot, DG Environment, European Commission, on guidelines for water reuse for the whole of the EU.

Mr Petitguyot said that water reuse is an acceptable but limited practice in Europe which needs a supportive framework to boost its achievable potential. An important step forward is the inclusion of water reuse in the Circular Economy Package with forthcoming initiatives on reuse in integrated water planning and management, and minimum quality requirements for water reuse in irrigation and aquifer recharge.

Balázs Horváth, of the European Environmental Bureau, said that *water reuse is an important tool to achieve the objectives of the WFD as long as it does not compromise the good status of waters.*

A theme that clearly emerged from the debate and some of the other presentations is that social acceptability over reuse of water is still an issue the water sector, governments and policy-makers still need to overcome.

The debate was held by the European Parliament Intergroup on “*Climate Change, Biodiversity and Sustainable Development*”, which is chaired by Michel Dantin MEP.

#EurEau water reuse