

EUROPEAN RIVER SYMPOSIUM 2021

Session 13

Sustainable agriculture and water management: towards new synergies

Thursday 27th May, 12h30 – 14h00 (CET), Room B

<https://wwf.zoom.us/j/98639137845?pwd=eJBRlhwZlh3YjkrY1NzZHI1WEEd5dz09>

Meeting ID: 986 3913 7845

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Context & Objectives

Pressures from agriculture are currently amongst the most significant pressures identified by Member States in many river basin districts, posing potential risk of non-achievement of the environmental objectives under the WFD.

Some policies such as the Nitrates Directive have a key role in protecting waters against agricultural pressures, but the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the main policy that influence agricultural practices. Despite being a strong instrument to encourage sustainable water management in agriculture, its measures are not always used sufficiently to reduce agriculture pressures.

In 2018, the European Commission presented proposals for a new 2021-2027 CAP (finally postponed to 2023), aiming to increase the level of environmental ambition. This future CAP has a crucial role in facilitating the transition towards sustainable agriculture.

The EU's Biodiversity strategy for 2030, a long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems, and the Farm to Fork Strategy, which are a core part of the European Green Deal, will work in tandem with this new CAP.

The session will present the current stakes and objectives of water management in agriculture, illustrated by some case studies from several stakeholders. A discussion time will also be the opportunity to address how the future CAP and Green Deal could help achieving these, for a sustainable agriculture that preserve water.

Draft Program

Introduction (5 min)

Mr. Eric Tardieu, Secretary General, International Network of Basin Organizations (INBO)

Case studies (35 min)

- **Mr. Ádám Kovács**, International Commission for the Protection of Danube River (ICPDR)
- **Ms. Julienne Roux**, Senior network specialist, Global Water Partnership (GWP)
- **Mr. Peter Newborne**, Regional Coordinator for Europe, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)

Questions & answers to the speakers (10 min)

Poll for the participants (5 min)

Reaction from the European Commission (10 min)

Ms. Leanne Roche, European Commission DG Environment

Tripartite discussion between the audience, the speakers, and the European Commission (20 min)

Moderated by:

Mr. Benoît Fribourg-Blanc, EU Project manager, International Office for Water (OiEau)

Conclusion (5 min)

Mr. Olli-Matti Verta, Director, Water Resources Management, Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry – Finland, Presidency of Europe-INBO