Minimum Requirements for Water Reuse

Rapporteur: Oldřich Vlasák
Councillor, Hradec Králové

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The case for promoting water reuse

• Increase of human and natural stress on water bodies
• Protection of drinking water sources and abstraction points
• Technical progress → State-of-the-art sanitation technology achieves the quality required for recycling
• Paradigm shift in water treatment → from safe discharge to safe reuse

Wastewater is not waste, but stable source of water!
The current paradigm: *Safe discharge*

De facto common worldwide
Towards a new paradigm: *Safe reuse*

**Uses of reclaimed water**
- Agricultural irrigation
- Landscape irrigation
- Industrial recycling and reuse
- Groundwater recharge
- Recreation and/or environmental use
- Non-potable urban use
- Car washing
- Washing the streets
Technologies to reuse water

- Biological treatment
- Disinfection
- Microfiltration
- Reverse osmosis
- UV
- Advanced $O_2$ processes
- Activated Carbon
## Figures on wastewater reuse

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Volume of reclaimed water [mil. m³ per year]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>California (USA)</td>
<td>1 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>10 000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>744</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>347</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>1 100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
European Regulatory Framework

Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC
Groundwater Directive 2016/118/EC
Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC
Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75/EC

Minimum requirements for water reuse Regulation proposal

REACH Regulation Nr. 1907/2006

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European Regulatory Framework

Proposal of Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse

• Agricultural purposes only
• Minimum requirements according to crop category and irrigation method
• ‘Fit-for-purpose’ approach
• Microbial and chemical parameters
• Same standards for all Europe → Single Market

Directive 91/271/EEC on urban waste-water treatment

Article 12 (1): Treated waste water shall be reused whenever appropriate.
Disposal routes shall minimize the adverse effects on the environment.

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CoR opinion on the proposal

Our goal: A *fit-for-purpose* piece of legislation!
- Effective promotion of water reuse
- Not deter the operators to recycle water

Suggestions & comments received:
- Extend the scope of the Regulation for other uses
  - parks and gardens, street cleansing
- Flexibility to allow real ‘fit-for-purpose’ approach
- Duties of the authority
- Responsibility for the use of reclaimed water must be shared by producers and users
- Which information to the public?
CoR opinion on the proposal

Calendar:

- **End of September** → Publication of CoR study
  - Update current situation by Member States
  - Identify the points requiring bigger economic and administrative effort

- **27 September** → ENVE debates on working document

- **28 September** → Stakeholders consultation
  POSTPONED

- **15 November** → ENVE adopts draft opinion

- **5-6 December** → CoR plenary adopts opinion

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Thank you!

Oldřich Vlasák
Councillor, Hradec Králové

enve@cor.europa.eu