



**ON REGULATION OF WATER SERVICES (EFRWS)**  
**1<sup>st</sup> EUROPEAN FORUM**

# **1<sup>st</sup> European Forum on Regulation of Water Services (EFRWS)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> December 2019**

**Roma Eventi - Centro Congressi Fontana di Trevi**

**Piazza della Pilotta 4, Rome**

Economic regulation of water and wastewater services encompasses a wide range of institutional frameworks and market conditions that differ from country to country in Europe and Worldwide.

In the European Union (EU) there has been a significant evolution towards the rationalization of the sector and the harmonization of practices and principles, by establishing a general framework for common action in water policy, with the aim to protect water resources and promote sustainable and efficient use of water.

Despite substantial differences, European countries are facing similar challenges to their water and wastewater systems, which require new investment due to the deterioration of physical assets, security and quality of drinking water supply, universal access to water, affordability, environmental sustainability and many other factors.

A need to reinforce technical and institutional dialogue among institutions and stakeholders is more and more necessary, in order to balance needs and interests of both customers and industry, without harming the environment and future generations. Innovation and investment can improve accessibility and quality levels of water supply, however any solution offered should aim for cost-efficiency and minimize the potential economic impact on customers.

In this context, the role of Regulators is becoming increasingly relevant, to foster cooperation among national, regional and local institutions and to develop transparent, stable and harmonized frameworks, to the benefit of water operators and consumers.

For instance, by increasing confidence and investment readiness of the industry, by reducing gaps in service quality standards throughout the territory, or by creating incentives for utilities to increase their efficiency and pass it on customer bills.

WAREG, the Association of 31 national and regional water Regulatory Agencies ([www.wareg.org](http://www.wareg.org)) is strongly engaged in exchanging best regulatory practices and disseminating know-how. Since its establishment in 2014, it has been concerned with establishing dialogue with EU institutions and stakeholders on common challenges for water systems.

It is in this spirit that WAREG wishes to organize the 1<sup>st</sup> European Forum on the Regulation of Water Services (EFRWS). The Forum will be held in Italy, kindly hosted by ARERA the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment, which holds the Presidency of WAREG.

The Forum will assess some of the most urgent issues for the sector in Europe and worldwide, such as: water governance, efficiency of water utilities, water regulation for innovation and environmental sustainability, social affordability of tariffs. It will engage some of the main actors in the sector, including: regulators, European institutions, international organizations, academics, industry, financial institutions, others.

Participants will be asked to offer their qualified view on how regulation can contribute to a better water framework in the EU and elsewhere. Best practices and national and regional experiences will be presented.

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## Draft agenda

**9.00 Registration & welcome coffee**

**9.30 Welcome address:**

- *Stefano Besseghini, President of ARERA the Italian Regulatory Authority for Energy, Networks and Environment*
- *Mario Turco, Under Secretary to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Italy*

### **Keynote speech:**

- *Veronica Manfredi – Director, Directorate-General for Environment Quality of Life (ENV.C), European Commission*
- *Emanuel Thanassoulis, Aston University Birmingham, UK*  
*Finding the right incentives to promote sustainability, security of supply and quality of service*

**10.45 General introduction by Andrea Guerrini, ARERA Commissioner and WAREG President**

**11.00-15.30 Parallel panels**

1. Water Governance	2. Cost Assessment Modelling and Promoting the Efficiency of Water Utilities	3. Water Regulation for Innovation and Environmental Sustainability	4. Sustainable water tariffs
<p><b>Moderator/ rapporteur and regulatory co-chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rui Marques (Lisbon University, Portugal)</li> <li>• Dimitar Kochkov (EWRC Regulator, Bulgaria)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maria Giovanna Montalbano (ARERA, Italy) <i>Water Governance in EU: a survey on WAREG Members</i></li> <li>• Martha Baxter (OECD, Paris, France) <i>The Governance of Water Regulators: Experience from the OECD's Network of Economic Regulators</i></li> <li>• Sean Ennis, (CERRE, Brussels, Belgium) <i>The effect of ownership structure on efficiency, investments and quality</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Moderator/rapporteur and regulatory co-chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emanuel Thanassoulis (Aston University, UK) <i>David Saal (Loughborough University, UK)</i></li> <li>• Laura Brien (CRU Regulator, Ireland)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stjepan Gabric (World Bank, Croatia) <i>The Danubis Water Platform: information sharing and benchmarking of water utilities</i></li> <li>• Takuya Urakami (Kindai University, Japan) <i>Understanding the Relationship between Industry Fragmentation and Wastewater Efficiency, so as to Inform Japanese Government Policy on Wide Area Cooperation and Consolidation</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Moderator/rapporteur and regulatory co-chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather Smith (Cranfield University, UK)</li> <li>• Szilvia Szálóki (HEA Regulator, Hungary)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elena Gallo (ARERA, Italy) <i>Regulatory tools for promoting environmental sustainability: the ARERA's experience</i></li> <li>• Sarah Gillman (Scottish Water, UK) <i>Sludge Management in EU, following a circular economy approach</i></li> <li>• Evina Katsou (Brunel University London, UK) <i>Towards Carbon neutral and Cost-efficient Sewage Treatment</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Moderator/ rapporteur and regulatory co-chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Riccardo Scarpa (University of Verona, Italy)</li> <li>• Ana Albuquerque (ERSAR Regulator, Portugal)</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ivaylo Kastchiev (EWRC, Bulgaria) <i>Tariff regulatory frameworks in WAREG Member countries</i></li> <li>• Francesco Lo Passo (Brattle Group, Italy) <i>Sustainable tariffs, investments and the Concessions Directive</i></li> <li>• Celine Nauges (Toulouse School of Economics, France) <i>Tariff Design for Economic Efficiency, Equity, and Cost Recovery</i></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simon Porcher (University of Paris Sorbonne, France) <i>Direct versus delegated management of water services in France</i></li> <li>• Andrea Mancini (WICS, Scotland, UK) <i>Retail market in the Water Sector</i></li> <li>• Giulia Romano (Pisa University, Italy) <i>Cooperativism and Water services</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paolo Peruzzi (GAIA, Italy) <i>The impact of regulation on firms' performance: the Italian case</i></li> <li>• Carl-Emil Larsen (DANVA, Denmark) <i>Benchmarking and Sunshine Regulation in Denmark</i></li> <li>• Alan Horncastle (Oxera, UK) <i>Views on the cost assessment undertaken in the 2019 price control in England and Wales</i></li> <li>• Alan Sutherland (WICS, Scotland, UK) <i>Use of information and efficiency assessment: reflections from the Scottish regulatory experience</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zsuzsanna Kovács (Water Engineer, Hungary) <i>Implementing innovative natural and engineered treatment systems in Budapest</i></li> <li>• Gloria De Paoli (Acteon Environment, France) <i>Fair tariff for spreading water reuse practices</i></li> <li>• Cédric Prevedello (Aquawal, Belgium) <i>Circular economy in water and wastewater: state of the art and perspectives in Wallonia (Belgium) and the effect of (lack) of regulation on it</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Discussants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rita Martins (University of Coimbra, Portugal) <i>Water affordability: assessment and policies</i></li> <li>• Michele Tettamanzi (REF Ricerche, Italy) <i>Sustainable Tariff: Information as a Bridge Between Regulators, Water Industries and Users</i></li> <li>• Phil Marshall (Consume Council for Water, UK) <i>Participatory water tariff review: the customer perspective</i></li> </ul>

**13.00**      **Lunch**

**14.30**      **Parallel panels (continued)**

1. Water Governance	2. Cost Assessment Modelling and Promoting the Efficiency of Water Utilities	3. Water Regulation for Innovation and Environmental Sustainability	4. Sustainable water tariffs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milo Fiasconaro (Aqua Publica Europea, Brussels, Belgium) <i>The interplay of the EU water directives and their governance implications: The perspective of public operators</i></li> <li>• Claudia Castell Exner (EurEau, Brussels, Belgium) <i>The governance of European water services: facing societal challenges in an evolving policy environment</i></li> <li>• Gari Villa-Landa Sokolova (AEAS, Spain) <i>Governance challenges of the Spanish water Services</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Saal (Loughborough University, UK) <i>The Implication of (Not) Appropriately Controlling for Cost Interactions, Water Scarcity and Operating Environment in Regulatory Waste and Wastewater Cost Assessment</i></li> <li>• Fabrizio Erbetta (UniTO, Italy) <i>The right benchmarking for the right incentives: the issue of water losses in distribution networks</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hay Koppers (AquaMinerals, Netherlands) <i>AquaMinerals: a collective approach of the Dutch water sector to stimulate circular economics for their residuals from water treatment processes</i></li> <li>• Montserrat Terms Rife (CETAqua, Spain) <i>Lessons learned on dynamic pricing</i></li> <li>• Luca Lo Schiavo (ARERA, Italy) <i>Regulatory tools for promoting innovation: the European experience</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob Sheldon (Accent, UK) <i>Participatory water tariff review: the market research perspective</i></li> <li>• Anita Payne (Ofwat, UK) <i>Participatory water tariff review: the regulatory perspective</i></li> <li>• Leon Fields (Oxera, UK) <i>Using water tariffs as a part of a package of water efficiency measures</i></li> </ul>

**15.30 Coffee-break**

**16.00 Plenary session: roundtable with rapporteurs from parallel panels 1, 2, 3, and 4.**

*Moderator: Nadia Weekes, Editor in Chief, ENDS Europe, Haymarket Media Group*

**17.00 Closing address by WAREG Members**

**17.15 Conclusions by Andrea Guerrini, ARERA Commissioner and WAREG President**

**17.30 End of the Forum**

