

Subject:

Subject: Flash report Commissioner - Eureau

Dear colleagues,

Yesterday 19 February at 15:00 Commissioner Sinkevicius has met the representatives of EurEau.

Participants:

- 5 representatives from Eureau: [REDACTED]
- The Commissioner, Carmen Preising (Deputy Head of Cabinet), [REDACTED] (C2) and [REDACTED] (C1).

The meeting was mainly an occasion for Eureau to present its activities and main suggestions on the UWWTD and the WFD.

Eurau insisted on:

- Its support to the Green Deal and the connected policies;
- The necessity to have at source reduction pollution policies combined with proactiveness and precautionary stringent regulations, and producer responsibilities and life-cycle approach (beyond responsibility for placing in the market). In this context,

REACH regulation should pay more attention to mobility of substances and their ability to get into water. There were concrete questions about micro-plastics from tyres and textile.

- On WFD they mentioned that they don't have a solution to propose – pro and con for a revision of the directive:
 - Risk of decreasing the level of ambition vs excepted non compliance by 2027; lack of application of Art 9 (cost recovery only applied to households and not to other sectors) and need to ensure more coherence with Agri/NRJ sectors;
 - Eureau will support ambition in any case on the WFD and the need to step up the implementation;
- Its agreement with the conclusions of the evaluation of the UWWTD, Eureau thinks it is time to refresh it to better tackle micro pollutants and answer to new challenges (GHG, circular economy, P recovery);
- The complexity of some choices (energy consumption vs additional treatment, better use of sludge vs protection of soils, etc).

Commissioner expressed:

- Its full support for the preventive approach – which will be included in the forthcoming chemical strategy (which will also cover PFA's) and later in the ZPA; and in the CE for what relates micro plastics;
- Recognised the challenge linked with sludge management (M. Sponar explained that if an IA is launched, several options will be considered and Eureau will be consulted);
- Insisted in the necessity to ensure full compliance before developing new policies;
- Recognised the necessity to increase coherences between the different EU policies;

Finally the President of EurEau invited the Commissioner to the 45 Anniversary of the organisation, to be celebrated with an event in Brussels on 9 June.

(C2) and (C1)