

Water Alliance

Preamble:

The foundation on which the Water Alliance rests is formed by a basic philosophy regarding the protection of water resources and the provision of drinking water that is shared by all the partners in the Alliance, especially with regard to the following aspects:

- ***“Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such.” (preamble to the European Water Framework Directive).***
- ***The result of the protection of water bodies according to the precautionary principle must be the achievement of a water quality that allows drinking water to be supplied using natural treatment methods only.***
- ***Unnatural substances or substances that are not biodegradable, or only biodegradable with difficulty, must be kept out of the bodies of water, in particular those used for providing drinking water.***
- ***The use of “end of pipe” technology in waterworks as a sole solution is not acceptable. Drinking water is essential for life and must be supplied in the purest and most natural form possible.***
- ***In the catchment areas of drinking water supply facilities, the provision of drinking water must be given priority over all other uses.***

On the basis of the meeting held on 23 January 2008 in Augsburg, previous discussions regarding how to proceed, as well as responses from parties interested in participating, the President hereby establishes the Water Alliance subject to the following agreed basic principles:

1. All partners shall have equal rights.
2. Each partner will nominate a competent and authorized representative. The representative should preferably be a high-ranking official of the respective association.
3. Each partner may actively provide technical and expert input regarding any subject, in particular water protection and drinking water quality, at any time.
4. The professional and technical input should preferably be put forward by the representatives as described in point 2. In general, these representatives should draw up the position papers and statements.
5. In principle, the input will be sent to all partners by e-mail.
6. Technical discussions will mostly be conducted by e-mail. For the sake of transparency, the partners agree to cc all partners when sending emails.
7. Every partner may join any topic related to a proposed statement within ten working days (but partners may also choose not to).
8. The names of the supporting partners and their logos will be placed on the title page of every official statement released by the Water Alliance.
9. Every partner supporting an official statement will, in principle, be prepared to answer questions related to the statement. The names of the contacts at the associations will be included. The first contact named will be the person who supplied technical input or is responsible for the initiative, as well as the IAWR office.
10. The IAWR office will be responsible for the overall management and coordination and will distribute the joint statements on behalf of the Water Alliance. The directors of the associations partnered in the Water Alliance, will digitally sign the statement at the IAWR offices. The representatives of the associations will approve the release of the statement for signing.

11. The partners will provide suggestions for distribution including mailing lists.
12. Statements should preferably be sent out by the IAWR. However, partners are also free to send out the statement, possibly with a covering letter, using their own mailing lists. In this case, the partners will notify each other by cc to ensure that information isn't sent to recipients twice.
13. Each partner is free to express an opinion on any subject without its partners in the Water Alliance. In these cases, however, the Water Alliance should be referred to whenever possible.
14. Statements are issued as the official standpoints of the Water Alliance if the statement is supported by at least seven associations of waterworks.
15. If an association of waterworks does not wish to support a particular standpoint, its logo will not appear on the document.
16. The standpoints are issued in German and English and, in exceptional cases, also in French.
17. Any translation costs involved will be shared equally by the associations supporting the statement..

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ARW, Wulf Abke

AWBR, Johann-Martin Rogg

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DVGW, Hans Mehlhorn

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SVGW, Kurt Rüegg

VEWIN, Theo Schmitz

VKU, Andreas Schirmer