

## Drinking Water Protection: Matthias Maier and Wolfgang Deinlein to lead IAWR for another three Years

### Reduction of Micropollutants and Agricultural Transition remain in Focus

Karlsruhe, 13 July 2023. On 11 July 2023, Prof. Dr. Matthias Maier was re-elected in Amsterdam as President of the International Association of Waterworks in the Rhine Basin (IAWR) and will continue to head the IAWR for another three years. IAWR Managing Director, Wolfgang Deinlein, was also confirmed in office. The office will therefore remain at Stadtwerke Karlsruhe until the end of 2026. *"We are committed to maintaining or restoring the natural quality of groundwater and surface water for the benefit of drinking water customers. Pollution must be avoided or reduced at its source and must not get into the drinking water so that our children and grandchildren can still enjoy pure and natural drinking water and waterworks do not become costly and energy-intensive repair services for neglected water protection,"* said Maier after his re-election.

Matthias Maier and Wolfgang Deinlein have been leading the IAWR, in which water suppliers from six countries are members, as an experienced tandem since 2019. The IAWR has a strong voice teaming up in the so-called ERM coalition with like-minded drinking water associations in the river basins of the Danube, Elbe, Meuse and Scheldt with a total of 188 million people. The IAWR has provided essential impulses for legislation on the protection of drinking water resources at EU and national level as well as in the Rhine basin. Besides the establishment of the target in the Rhine basin to reduce micropollutants by 30% by 2040, the IAWR has given substantial input into the discussion on an agricultural transition towards organic farming without synthetic pesticides in water catchments. This is reflected in the corresponding processes for shaping EU legislation. *"Sustainable agriculture without artificial pesticides and nitrate surpluses is also a crucial building block in protection against droughts and floods, because organically managed soils absorb more than twice the precipitation water which is then available in times of drought,"* Deinlein adds.

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