

# PROGRAMME

## WATER TECHNOLOGY UNLOCKING AND SCALING UP THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**Date:** May 30th 2018  
**Time:** 08:30 - 17:30  
**Venue:** **Committee of the Regions** (Belliardstraat 99-101, 1040 Brussels, BE)  
Room: **JDE 52**  
Please **register** before May 25: [LINK](#)

08h30 Registration and Coffee

09h00 **Setting the scene: the role of water technology in unlocking the circular economy**

Welcome by [Klaas Kielstra \(NL/ ALDE\)](#), CoR-Member, [Province of Fryslân](#)

Jan Weijma, [LEAF](#) and [WUR](#), Introducing the global imbalance in nutrients and need to change nutrient management.

Hans Stielstra, Deputy Head of Unit [Clean Water, DG ENV](#), EU Water legislation supporting drinking water, water reuse and circular economy.

Cees Buisman, [Wetsus](#), High-risk research transforming new ideas into breakthrough innovations and start-ups.

10h30 Coffee Break and Cake

11h00 **Research and Scaling up Inventions: Barriers and Financing**

Stephan Bocken, CEO [Paques](#) BV (NL), CEO, transforming waste water into biogas and bioplastics

Marc Feytaerts, [Ecoloro](#) (NL, SME), innovative waste water treatment for textiles sector

Erik Pijlman, CEO [KNN Cellulose](#) (NL, start-up), cellulose recovery from waste water

Leon Korving, [Green Water Solution](#) (USA, start-up), nutrient removal and recovery. How to win the [George Barley Water Prize](#) and cash 10 million dollars?

12h30 Lunch

14h00 **Circular Economy Interregional Cooperation**

[Mikel Irujo Amezaga \(ES/EA\)](#) (CoR-Member Navarra), Vanguard Initiative and Rapporteur of the opinion '[Smart Specialisation Strategies \(RIS3\): impact for regions and interregional cooperation](#)'

[Marcello Colledani](#), Politecnico di Milano, H2020 project [SCREEN](#) (Synergic Circular Economy Across European Regions)

Pieter de Jong, [WaterCampus Leeuwarden](#), introducing Interreg Europe project “Water Technology Innovation Roadmaps” ([iWATERMAP](#)) and partners:

[Janis Paiders](#) (Latvia), Head of analytical team for RIS3 in Ministry of Education and Science

[Miroslav Kubásek](#) (Southern-Moravia), Chairman of the Committee on Interregional Relations of the South Moravian region

15h00 Coffee break

15h30 **Future Research and Innovation agenda (reflections on MFF)**

Pavel Misiga, Head of Unit [Eco-Innovation DG RTD](#), Outlook Research and Innovation policy post 2020 and Horizon Europe

Mathea Fammels, Head of EIT Liaison Office, [EIT](#) – Delivering Solutions to Societal Challenges: Today’s Contributions and Future Ambitions.

Panel discussion about regional, national and European perspective:

[Sander de Rouwe](#) regional collaboration and outlook beyond 2020

[Michiel Sweers](#), Ministry of Economic Affairs (NL) Research and Innovation Policy in The Netherlands

Cees Buisman, [Wetsus](#), creating more impact through funding synergies

16h30 **Network cocktail**

[Pirita Lindholm](#), director ERRIN Official opening of the cocktail

17h30 **Closing of the event**



# CONTENT OF THE CONFERENCE

The Northern Netherlands, ERRIN and Wetsus are organizing a conference which explores the link between **Water Technology** and the **Circular Economy**. During the conference concrete examples are shown, as well as a glimpse into the future.

The first session is dedicated to policy and research. It starts with Mr. Weijma indicating how **nutrients** are the basis for food production and human existence. How to improve the **management and reuse** of these important building blocks? Followed by an update by Mr. Stielstra of DG ENV on the new **drinking water proposal**, activities in area of **Water Reuse** and state of play in the ongoing **Fitness Check on Water legislation**. Mr. Buisman will show how **European companies and universities** work together to develop **breakthrough technologies** to solve water challenges, to provide clean drinking water and unlock the circular economy.

The second session will go into more concrete examples of companies that scale up innovations and are willing to transform the European economy and society into a circular economy and society. **Paques** will show how **bio-based, bio-degradable plastic**, made by bacteria are key requirements to **prevent plastic litter in the oceans** and to develop **decentralised production sites**, which require smaller investments and support distributed economic development in the EU.

**Green Water Solution** will share how an **Innovation Prize** similar to [Horizon2020 Prizes](#) work in the USA, what their experience, the benefits, the challenges and results are. What can Europe learn from the USA? The George Barley Water Prize aims to solve the environmental and ecological problems of [America's Everglades](#). A full scale installation is the goal of the challenge, the reward is 10 million dollars.

**Ecoloro** will share a novel waste water treatment system for the **textiles sector**, using less chemicals and energy and transforming waste water into high value process water.

**KNN Cellulose** will share how **toilet paper** can be recovered from waste water as cellulose and how this can be converted in high valuable resources. **Circular economy starting at the loo!**

The companies will also share the barriers to innovation and their recommendations for legislation and support measures.

The third session focusses on interregional collaboration and starts of with the example of the [Vanguard Initiative](#). It will show how new economic growth is supported through smart specialisation to boost new growth through bottom-up entrepreneurial innovation and **industrial renewal** in European priority areas. This is followed by an update on the [SCREEN](#) project, in which no less than 17 regions collaborate in the field of **circular economy** and smart specialisation.

The session will then dive into a new Interreg Europe project iWATERMAP, which aims to develop interregional collaboration in the fields of education, research and innovation in **water technology** between 7 EU regions. Several partner regions will highlight how this project fits within their smart specialisation area and how they intent to develop their regions **critical mass** around water technology to support innovation and implementation.

The fourth session will look into the future. With the new [MFF](#) published on May 29<sup>th</sup> this conference is very strategically placed to explore the newest developments. DG RTD will share



the new structure of **Horizon Europe** and how this programme will support water technology and the circular economy. **EIT** will indicate how currently the existing **KICs** are already supporting the transition towards a circular economy. In addition, the EIT will highlight new KICs proposed for the next MFF, including a dedicated **KIC Water, Marine and Maritime**. The interaction between the regional, national and European dimension is further developed by contributions from the province of Fryslân and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate.

Finally, Pirita Lindholm, director of **ERRIN** will open a network cocktail, which will have a **refreshing circular surprise** for all participants.

We wish to see you on May 30<sup>th</sup> to enjoy this inspiring conference with us!

