

22 May 2017



PRESS RELEASE

European Drinking Water Press Release on the 3rd Symposium on Materials and Products in Contact with Drinking Water

On May 18th, the **European Drinking Water Industrial Alliance**, **Plastics Europe**, the **Copper Alliance** and **EurEau** organised the **3rd Symposium on Materials and Products in Contact with Drinking Water** in Brussels. The event saw the participation of representatives of the European Commission as well as national regulators and industry players. More than 130 participants attended this year's symposium.

The main focus of this event has been the situation of materials and products in contact with drinking water ('contact materials and products') in view of the upcoming Commission proposal on the revision of the Drinking Water Directive (expected by the end of 2017). As of today, there is no EU-wide harmonisation on contact materials. Many Member States have established their own requirements and approval schemes for materials and products in contact with drinking water often leading to contradictory requirements: a material approved in one Member State is not accepted in other Member States and vice-versa.

European Drinking Water calls the Commission to revise the Drinking Water Directive to ensure that the safety of contact materials and products is regulated at the EU level. **Volker Meyer, chairman of the European Drinking Water Industrial Alliance**, said *"An EU-wide legislative framework on contact materials is needed to ensure that all European citizens benefit from a high level of human health protection. Only European legally binding measures will fix the current situation. The Commission should take stock of the positive initiatives at national level, in particular the 4 Member States Initiative, aimed at reaching a higher degree of harmonisation"*.

All panel participants – Commission, several national regulators and the European water sector - agreed on the need to address the lack of harmonized provisions on contact materials and products in the Commission proposal on the Revision of the Drinking Water Directive.

The Commission is expected to release its proposal on the Revision of the Drinking Water Directive by the end of 2017.

Click [here](#) to read the European Drinking Water position paper on the Revision of the Drinking Water Directive.

For more information on the European Drinking Water (EDW) Industrial Alliance, visit the [EDW website](#)

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About the European Drinking Water (EDW)

The European Drinking Water (EDW) is an alliance of currently 30 European trade associations representing industries involved with the supply of products or materials that are used in drinking water applications and connected to municipal drinking water supplies within the European Union (EU). This ranges, from raw materials suppliers to producers of pumps, water meters, pipes, valves, taps, fittings, water treatment, water heaters, catering equipment industry, seals, etc. and all types of materials, such as elastomers, metals, plastics, etc. The alliance is open to any industry association relevant to drinking water contact applications.

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