



**Dolphin Club is
putting water on
the European map**

Water is an issue that is increasingly demanding our attention across the world. It is of vital importance and without it there would be no prospect for life. The recently created Dolphin Club has to make sure that water will indeed get the central place it deserves in the political heart of Europe. Because water touches upon everything and everyone in our society.

It is very important to draw attention to water in Brussels, the place where European laws and rules are made that hugely affect the way we will be dealing with water quantity and quality over the next decades. For example, think about the impact of the Water Framework Directive in all European Member States in the

coming years. Not only attention for (drinking) water quality and quantity in the western world is important, attention for water is also essential from a global perspective. The climate problem and as a consequence, the rising sea levels that are to be expected are a serious matter. Because of the shortage of clean and safe drinking

water in third world countries and lack of sanitation, water is featuring high on the international political agenda. The United Nations has acknowledged this by making water one of its priorities through the formulation of its Millennium Development Goals. With all this international attention for water, Europe can not just lean



back and wait. It should also act. Water deserves a permanent place high on Brussels' agenda and the Dolphin Club facilitates this development.

Platform

The Dolphin Club aims to establish a robust platform working at an European level to find practicable solutions to (drinking) water problems. It is not meant to just study and analyze problems. The platform will facilitate discussions on water issues between Members and Former Members of the European Parliament and representatives of the European Commission, the European Council, industry and other stakeholders related to water. They meet at the Dolphin Club, where



Dolphin Club platform for European water policy

"Water does not stop at borders. The need for a European water policy therefore goes without saying. The Netherlands also has a historical know-how in innovation in water management and could lead the way in Europe and the rest of the world. That's why I support the initiative of Vewin and the Association of Water Boards to present the Dolphin Club as a platform to industry, stakeholders and governments."

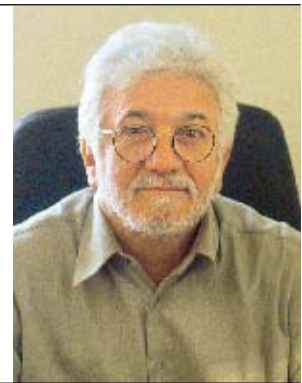
Lambert van Nistelrooij - Member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats -The Netherlands



Reduce excessive use of water

"Climate is rapidly changing and as a consequence water scarcity is increasing and fresh water resources are decreasing worldwide. In Europe the problem is more intense around large cities and in the South. We should urgently consider the introduction of fresh water efficiency measures, in both European and national level, directed also to the end user with a view to reducing excessive and irrational use of fresh water."

Nicolaos Vakalis - Member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats - Greece



solutions will be presented, which can be quickly realized within the framework of the political and financial possibilities.

The name Dolphin Club is derived from the Kangaroo Club that has been established as a platform for foreign trade in the European Parliament many years ago and that still is very successful.

The initiative to create the Dolphin Club has been taken by the representatives of the Dutch Water companies and Dutch Water boards in Brussels, Robert Schröder and Peter Pex (who also is a former MEP) and of Tom Vereijken, Chairman of the European Water Partnership. The symbol of the dolphin has been chosen to learn from this animal that, just like man, is dependent on water but is intelligent enough not to pollute it.

Structural water policy

The issues are very diverse and they are also very complex. They present European politics with a formidable challenge. For large parts of the world water is an enormous threat. Water

makes millions of people feel unsafe and it is a potential cause for political instability. Shortages of drinking water and floodings cause humanitarian disasters on a global scale. Due to these problems there are serious challenges in the fields of public health, economics and infrastructure that deeply affect society. It goes without saying that the growing climate problem, with which we will be confronted in Europe as well, intensifies the above mentioned water problems. All these issues justify a structural water policy at European level, not in the least because every (European) citizen is entitled to a sustainable supply of clean and safe drinking water at an acceptable price and a well managed water environment of high quality. That is an important responsibility of European politicians.

Enthusiastic

The initiative for the creation of the Dolphin Club was announced during the European Policy Summit on Water Security in Brussels in early June. This event, organised by the European Water Partnership and Friends of

Dolphin Club is seeking solutions that can be quickly realized

Europe, brought together over 220 participants from organisations such as the European Union, UN-agencies, governments, NGO's, research institutes and the industry.

The reactions to the initiative of the Dolphin Club were overall enthusiastic.

The first official meeting of members of the Dolphin Club will take place soon. The theme will be: "How do we achieve the UN-Millennium Development Goals?" More activities are forthcoming. The Dolphin Club wants to support the temporary climate change committee of the European Parliament. It wants to establish an exchange of information between European policy makers and professionals from the water sector. Also on other important upcoming debates, like water scarcity and droughts, the Dolphin Club aims to become a platform that can provide policy makers with solutions to existing challenges. To make this a success, with the Dolphin Club having taken its first steps on the Brussels' stage, it is of paramount importance that all stakeholders feel involved in its activities. Water is too important to all of us to not give it the attention it deserves.

More information

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Dolphin Club dedicated to clean water in abundance

"The availability of clean water is not a matter-of-course and will in future be threatened even more by the effects of climate change. Parts of Europe will become drier. I dedicate myself in the European Parliament to clean water in abundance, but it's important to permanently stir up the debate. The Dolphin Club could play an important role in this. So it's a great initiative!"

Dorette Corbey - Member of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament - The Netherlands



Consequent political water agenda necessary

"Fresh water is the basis for all economic activities and life in general. Fresh water is an exhaustible resource. Water will not always be available for unlimited use in the future. Major conflicts about the use of water are impending in the future consequently we need a political water agenda".

Richard Seeber - Member of the Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats - Austria



Dolphin Club promotes international cooperation

"Water as a basic priority for human life and nature requires a high level of responsibility in coping with. The only way to achieve this is by an intensive cooperation among all stakeholders in international water policy. The Dolphin Club provides this opportunity"

Hans Blokland, MEP, The Netherlands, Independence/Democracy Group

