

## Reply from Durk Krol, WssTP to CEO

Dear Ms. Cann,

Please find below an answer to your questions.

I would appreciate to receive a copy of you final publication.

### 1. Who are the funders and members of the EP Water Group?

The EP Water Group doesn't have funders as such. Some individual activities may need funding. WssTP is currently acting as management body for the EP Water Group in close collaboration with other members of the EU Water Alliance (<http://eu-wateralliance.eu>). The costs made for the dinner with Commissioner Moedas were covered from the WssTP budget; the costs for the dinner with Commissioner Vella were equally shared between WssTP and EurEau.

Invitations for meetings of the EP Water Group are sent to no fixed membership. Announcements about the EP Water Group are widely communicated through our mailing list and the 'Plenary meetings' are open and free to attend for all interested stakeholders. The invitations for the EP Water Group dinners are sent to a representative group of relevant stakeholders, as you can see in the attached participation list.

### 2. Which organisations and individuals attended the EP Water Group dinners with Commissioners Vella and Moedas in 2015?

See attached participation lists

### 3. How much staff time or funding does the WssTP put into the EP Water Group?

Limited

### 4. Are the 3.5 full time lobbyists which the WssTP records on its EU lobby register entry, all paid staff?

We are primarily an organisation that is oriented on services to members. WssTP doesn't have 3.5 full time lobbyists, our staff is registered in the transparency register primarily to easily access the EP for events. Please check-out our staff composition on our website: <http://wsstp.eu/about-us/staff/>. Ms Kuzmickaite is seconded to WssTP for 30% by our member VLAKWA. All the other staff is directly employed by WssTP.

### 5. When did WssTP take over the secretariat functions of the EP Water Group from EurEau?

With the transition to the new parliamentary period

### 6. Why did this change take place?

The objective of the EP Water Group is to raise the profile of the water issue as a transversal topic in the policy debate in the European Parliament. With the transition to the new Parliamentary period EurEau decided that it was time that one of the other water-related umbrella organisation should take over. WssTP was a logical choice for a number of reasons, including the fact that I had been personally involved in the creation of the Intergroup Water together with MEP Richard SEEBER in

2009 in my capacity at that time as EurEau deputy Secretary-General. Another argument was that EurEau and WssTP have similar staff capacity in Brussels and that WssTP therefore was best equipped to take over.

7. Why is the EP Water Group no longer an official EP intergroup?

Already in the previous parliamentary period the 'Intergroup Water' changed its name to 'EP Water Group'. At the beginning of the parliamentary period it was decided that the formal recognition as an Intergroup would bring little added value in a practical sense, as Intergroups may only meet in Strasbourg which would severely undermine the outreach of the EP Water groups' activities.

8. When did this change take place?

With the transition to the new parliamentary period.

9. Are there any other comments that you would like to make about the EP Water Group, the WssTP and/ or the relations between them?

Best regards,

Durk