

# PROGRAMME

## Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021

09:00	Welcoming words from the organisers	
09:10	Keynote from Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries	
09:40	Keynote from Veronica Manfredi, Director for Quality of Life in DG Environment, European Commission	
09:55	Keynote from Steven Schonberger, Regional Director for the World Bank Group's Sustainable Development Department for the Europe and Central Asia region	
10:10	Coffee Break	
	Parallel Sessions	
	Room A	Room B
10:30	<p>1 - HOW CAN THE EU BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY HELP ACHIEVE THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE OBJECTIVES, AND VICE-VERSA?</p> <p>Organiser: <i>International Network of Basin Organizations</i></p> <p>This session will showcase exemplary case studies of river continuity &amp; hydromorphology restoration (at all stages of planning, assessment and implementation) and call for their replication to achieve the objectives set in both the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030.</p> <p>Speaker: Bettina Doerer, Head of Unit Clean Water, DG Environment, European Commission</p>	<p>5 - WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO RESTORE EUROPEAN FRESHWATER BODIES? PROMISING PATHWAYS FOR FINANCING</p> <p>Organiser: <i>The Nature Conservancy</i></p> <p>The session will put the spotlight on the need for European actors to define transparent and coordinated funding mobilization strategies in order to meet the WFD and other related EU directives and policies, particularly the EU Biodiversity Strategy and the Climate Adaptation Strategy.</p> <p>Speaker: Hans Stielstra, Deputy Head Clean Water Unit, DG Environment, European Commission</p>
12:00	Lunch Break	
12:30	<p>2 - ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE: THE INTEREST OF BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING</p> <p>Organiser: <i>International Network of Basin Organizations</i></p> <p>This session will present how cooperation and planning of water resources uses at basin level helps to improve adaptation (but also avoid maladaptation!) and achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Speaker: Ivan Zavadsky, Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)</p>	<p>6 - SUCCESSFUL RIVER MANAGEMENT: THE IMPORTANCE OF STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT</p> <p>Organiser: <i>Global Water Partnership</i></p> <p>Stakeholders play a vital role in river management by contributing ideas, collecting data, funding and delivering projects to improve our rivers. The focus of the session will be on discussing current approaches towards the engagement of the public and decision makers, main challenges and how we can improve engagement.</p> <p>Speaker: TBC</p>
14:00	Coffee Break	

Parallel Sessions		
	Room A	Room B
14:15	<p><b>3 - SHARING BASINS, SHARING DESTINIES: INTERNATIONAL RIVER COMMISSIONS</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River</i></p> <p>This session will highlight the role of River Commissions as key actors in the WFD implementation process and also examine their modes of interaction with the public. Both of these aspects have undergone exponential change in recent years.</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Susanne Schmeier, Associate Professor of Water Law and Diplomacy at IHE Delft</p>	<p><b>7 - HOW TO ENHANCE RIPARIAN AND FLOODPLAIN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT BY RESEARCH, PRACTICE AND POLICY?</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>COST Action CONVERGES, European Centre for River Restoration</i></p> <p>This session will present evidence and reasons why and how riparian vegetation should be better integrated in water management frameworks to achieve ecological and socio-economic objectives.</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Gorazd Urbanic Director, URBANZERO Institute for holistic environmental management, Ltd.</p>
15:45	Coffee Break	
16:00	<p><b>4 - THE FUTURE OF WATER: YOUNG WATER SPECIALISTS AND DECISION MAKING</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>Global Water Partnership</i></p> <p>The session will take the form of a dialogue between high-level decision makers and representatives of young water professionals. The participants will be able to submit their questions to the speakers via Zoom chat function. The speakers will be answering to these questions during the Q&amp;A session.</p> <p>Speaker: Balázs Heincz, Head of Department for Water Diplomacy and the Danube Region Strategy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary</p>	<p><b>8 - RESTORING WETLANDS TO IMPROVE RIVER STATUS</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>Ramsar</i></p> <p>The session addresses key elements of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030, notably the restoration of 25,000 km of EU rivers to a free-flowing state and the increase of biodiversity rich landscape features on agricultural land in river catchments and floodplains. The session will present the most up-to-date advances in integrated wetland and river management, which mirrors the requirements of the Green Deal.</p> <p>Speaker: Dr. Michael Manton, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania (TBC)</p>
16:45	Coffee Break	
17:00	<p><b>SIDE EVENT 1 - ECRR'S OVERALL STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND REVIVAL OF THE EUROPEAN RIVER RESTORATION COMMUNITY OF PRACTITIONERS</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>European Centre for River Restoration</i></p> <p>The event will showcase and demonstrate the importance of sharing best practice and learning from each other enabling practitioners to constantly review how things can be done better and on a scale that can make a greater difference and motivate stakeholders to do more for both people and the environment.</p> <p>Speaker: Benoît Terrier, project leader in hydromorphology at the Rhône Mediterranean river basin agency.</p>	<p><b>SIDE EVENT 2 - RESTORING RIVERS AND WETLANDS AT SCALE LESSONS FROM THE MULTI-SECTORAL LIVING DANUBE PARTNERSHIP</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>The World Wide Fund for Nature Central and Eastern Europe</i></p> <p>The event will reflect on the lessons learned from the multi-sectoral partnership between WWF Central &amp; Eastern Europe, the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, and The Coca-Cola Company and Foundation, and how they can be applied to other areas, focusing as target audience on river and wetland practitioners, promoters, and decision-makers.</p> <p>Speaker: TBC</p>

# PROGRAMME

Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021

09:00	Welcoming words from the organisers	
09:10	Keynote from Dario Soto-Abril, Executive Secretary and CEO at Global Water Partnership	
09:25	Keynote from Loïc Obled, Deputy Director General at French Agency for Biodiversity	
09:40	Keynote from Sofia Kilifi, Sustainability & Community Manager Europe at The Coca Cola Company	
09:55	Keynote from Joakim Harlin, Chief, Freshwater Ecosystems Unit and Chief Manager, UNEP-DHI Centre on Water & Environment	
10:10	Coffee Break	
Parallel Sessions		
	Room A	Room B
10:30	<p><b>9 - CHALLENGES IN REACHING HEALTHY RIVERS AND SUSTAINABLE HYDROPOWER</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, European Centre for River Restoration</i></p> <p>Hydropower exerts one of the most significant pressures on lake and river water bodies but, at the same time, it is an important part of many member states' electricity production and central to managing the transition to a climate friendly power production system. There is a great need for a transformation towards more sustainable hydropower and the challenges to deal with trade-offs, funding and policymaking is extensive.</p> <p>Speaker: Johan Kling, Head of Department, Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management</p>	<p><b>12 - WATER USERS AND WATER QUALITY: COOPERATION TO ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENT</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area</i></p> <p>The session will explore the opportunities that exist for consolidating the interests of different users of water resources to achieve coordinated actions to improve water quality and restore and protect rivers. A case study will be presented on work that is undertaken to achieve cooperation in the context of International Commissions for river protection.</p> <p>Speakers: Sophie Trémolet, Europe Water Security Director for The Nature Conservancy</p>
12:00	Lunch Break	
12:30	<p><b>10 - DEVELOPING POLICY AND PLANNING OF RIVER CONTINUITY RESTORATION IN GREATER EUROPE</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>European Centre for River Restoration</i></p> <p>European River Continuity Restoration Policy and Planning Survey: Funding, knowledge, guidance, collaboration and communication scaling up ecological river continuity restoration.</p> <p>Speaker: Roman Havlíček, Director General of the Water Policy Division of the Ministry of Environment, Slovakia</p>	<p><b>13 - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT: TOWARDS NEW SYNERGIES</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>International Network of Basin Organizations</i></p> <p>The session will present the current stakes of water management in agriculture, illustrated by some case studies from several stakeholders. A discussion time will also be the opportunity to address how the future CAP and Green Deal could help achieving these, for a sustainable agriculture that preserve water.</p> <p>Speaker: Olli-Matti Verta, Director Water Resources Management, Finnish Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry</p>
Parallel Sessions		
	Room A	Room B
14:15	<p><b>11 - LIFELINES: A TWO DECADE JOURNEY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RIVER FOUNDATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL RIVER PRIZE</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>International Association of Water Service Companies in the Danube River Catchment Area</i></p> <p>Follow the International River Foundation's over two decades of journey: from its inception in 2003 to provide global recognition and support for best practice in river management to giving a voice to world's rivers to ensure rivers for future generations. The session will consist of a montage of powerpoint presentations, videos, animations and personal stories.</p> <p>Speaker: Dr Eva Abal, CEO, International River Foundation</p>	<p><b>14 - PARTICIPATORY BASIN MANAGEMENT: HOW TO DO IT &amp; WHY IT MATTERS!</b></p> <p>Organiser: <i>International Network of Basin Organizations</i></p> <p>This session will present how participatory management can be improved at each of step of the WFD process for river basin management planning: how can water users and the public at large be better involved in monitoring, diagnosis, planning and implementation?</p> <p>Speaker: Thierry Vatin, Director General, Artois-Picardie Water Agency</p>
16:00	Closing Session (30 min)	