

# Europe's Sanitation Problem

## 20 million Europeans need access to Safe and Affordable Sanitation

The seminar focuses on the question if with current policies and practices providing safe sanitation for all citizens of the European Union is impossible, and if so, what should be done.



### Seminar World Water Week

**Date:** 19 August 2008  
**Time:** 13:30 – 17:00  
Followed by an excursion till 20:30  
**Address:** World Water Week  
Mässvägen 1, 125 80 Älvsjö/Stockholm  
**Location:** Room T6, Stockholmsmässan  
Stockholm International Fairs and Congress Center

### International Year of Sanitation 2008

2008 was proclaimed the International Year of Sanitation by the United Nations UNSGAB. At the Johannesburg Sustainable Development Summit in 2002, heads of States committed to reduce the number of people without access to sanitation by half till 2015, adding this target to the existing water target of the Millennium Development Goal number 7. Many EU governments see this as a focus for their international cooperation agreements. However, even within the European Union an estimated 20 to 30 million people do not have access to safe sanitation, and little action has so far been undertaken to address this problem.

### Debate about Europe's Sanitation Challenge

The seminar will include a number of key presentations by representatives from the European Commission, the European Parliament, Member State Governments of Romania and Bulgaria, and representatives of Export Agencies, Science and Local and Regional Authorities, followed by a debate focussing on 6 key questions, which have been formulated in a "discussion paper", see [www.wecf.eu/calendar/2008/stockholm\\_calendar.php](http://www.wecf.eu/calendar/2008/stockholm_calendar.php)

### The debate will look at questions such as:

- Do we have reliable data on households, schools, medical points and other public institutions in the EU that do currently not have access to safe hygienic sanitation? If not, how should this be obtained?
- How can targets, policies and guidelines be developed for planning and implementation of sustainable and affordable wastewater and sanitation infrastructure?
- How can existing European funds such as rural development funds and cohesion funds be used to promote safe, affordable and sustainable sanitation methods in the EU?
- To what extent are present EC directives a barrier to the reuse of nutrients from wastewater and source separated excreta in agriculture?
- How can national legislation be adjusted to allow for the development of new technologies decentralised, sustainable sanitation systems?
- How can market introduction of innovative, resource-efficient sanitation and wastewater technologies be promoted?
- What steps need to be taken to insure high quality implementation of sustainable sanitation systems, independent evaluation of technologies and support to consumers?

### Organised by

- Women in Europe for a Common Future, WECF
- Global Water Partnership Eastern Europe, GWP
- Earth Forever Foundation, Bulgaria
- Euro Teleorman, Romania
- Clean Coalition Baltic, Sweden
- Creative NGO, Slovakia
- Hamburg University of Technology

WECF receives support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Commission and Fondation Ensemble, France

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Global Water Partnership  
Central and Eastern Europe



Website Stockholm World Water Week  
[www.worldwaterweek.org/Downloads/Overview.pdf](http://www.worldwaterweek.org/Downloads/Overview.pdf)

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Seminar, World Water Week, Stockholm, 19 August 2008

## Programme

- 13:30 – 13:45 The International Year of Sanitation  
*Opening by the organisers*
- 13:45 – 13:50 Film on sanitation conditions in Eastern Europe (5 min)  
*"Access to Safe Sanitation, a Right for All"*
- 13:50 – 14:00 Europe's problem: more than 20 million people need safe and affordable sanitation: an Action Plan is needed.  
*Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director, WECF*
- 14:00 – 14:15 EU policy and operational programmes in new member states:  
can the EU help solving the sanitation problems?  
*Helmut Bloech, Deputy Head of Unit Water and Marine, DG Environment, European Commission*
- 14:15 – 14:30 Policy options for ecological sanitation in Europe  
*Anders Wijkman, Member of the European Parliament (prel. confirmed)*
- 14:30 – 14:45 Rural sanitation and waste water treatment and re-use of nutrients, Bulgarian perspective  
*Miroslava Georgieva, Director Rural Development Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture and food, Bulgaria*
- 14:45 – 15:00 Demonstrating affordable decentralized sanitation, waste water and nutrient re-use in rural Bulgaria.  
*Diana Iskreva, Director, Earth Forever Foundation, Bulgaria*
- 15:00 – 15:15 Coffee Break
- 15:15 – 15:30 The market for sustainable sanitation technologies  
*Berit Gullbransson, Director, SWENTEC - Swedish Environmental Technology Council*
- 15:30 – 15:45 Catalysts and obstacles in implementing the right to sanitation in Romania  
*Adina Florea, Head of Water Quality Office, Directorate for Water Resources Management, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Romania and Mihaela Vasilescu, NGO M&S, Romania*
- 15:45 – 16:45 Panel discussion, with comments and questions from the participants  
Including MEP, representatives of authorities authorities, universities, business and civil society:
- *Stanislav Doctor, Assistant Director of Local Development Division, Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia (ATMS)*
  - *Friedrich Barth, Chair, European Water Partnership*
  - *Duncan Mara, Professor, University of Leeds, UK*
  - *Ralf Otterpohl, Professor, Hamburg University of Technology, Germany*
  - *Arno Rosmarin, Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden*
  - *Anders Wijkman, MEP, Sweden*
  - *Galia Bardarska, Ass. Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia*
- 16:45 – 17:00 Conclusions and the way forward
- 17:00 – 20:00 Excursion for seminar participants to two projects on sustainable sanitation in Stockholm (optional)
- 20:00 – open end Dinner and drinks (optional) offered by GWP



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Invitation to WECF Seminar 19 August 2008