

PUBLIC SEMINAR

# THE VALUE OF WATER(S): STRATEGIES TO REDUCE IMPACT ON FRESHWATER RESOURCES

VILA NOVA DE GAIA AND ONLINE - **30 MARCH 2023 / 14:30 – 18:00** (GMT)

## BACKGROUND

The frequency and geographical extent of drought events affecting Europe are increasing. As predicted by the latest reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), water scarcity is rapidly shifting from a primarily Mediterranean issue to a continental emergency. Addressing this fundamental societal challenge requires an overhaul of water resources management.

A recently adopted EU regulation should encourage the reuse of water (following wastewater treatment process) by the agricultural sector, which is the main “user” of freshwater resources on our continent. Reclaimed water or alternative water sources also have the potential to meet certain industrial needs or urban uses. In addition to reducing the impact on freshwater resources, these alternative sources can also help save high quality and precious water for drinking purposes.

In this framework, the seminar aims to explore the potential and challenges of implementing the new water reuse regulation in agriculture, as well as the opportunities for alternative water sources in urban contexts.

## AGENDA

14:30

**Welcome address**

**Miguel Lemos Rodrigues** – *President, Aguas de Gaia*

14:45

### SESSION I: THE NEW EU REGULATION ON WATER REUSE – POTENTIAL AND CHALLENGES

- **Objectives and main provisions of the Reg. EU 2020/741**

**Valentina Bastino** – *Policy Officer ‘EU water legislation and policy’, European Commission [from remote]*

- **The experience of water utilities**

**Hugo Xambre Pereira** – *Vice President, Águas do Tejo Atlântico (PT)*  
**Eddy Troosters** – *Chief Executive Officer, PIDPA (BE)*

- **The view of the agricultural sector**

**Adriano Battilani** – *Secretary General, Irrigants d’Europe [from remote]*

16:15

**Coffee Break**



## AGENDA

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### SESSION II: THE POTENTIAL OF WATER REUSE IN AGRICULTURE AND BEYOND – PERSPECTIVES

16:30

**Domenico Laforgia** – *President, Acquedotto Pugliese (IT)*

**Margarida Monte** – *Senior Engineer, Portuguese Water Regulator (ERSAR)*

**Joaquim Poças Martins** – *Secretary General, Portuguese Water Council*

**Panel discussion**

17:30

**Conclusive remarks: the way forward**

**José Pimenta Machado** - *Vice President, Portuguese Environment Agency*

**Interpretation service available: Portuguese/English/Italian/French**





**Miguel Lemos Rodrigues** – *President of the Management Board, Águas de Gaia*

Miguel Marques de Lemos Rodrigues has been Member of the Board of Águas de Gaia since 2015. He regularly writes columns in newspapers on environmental and sustainability issues. Prior to his current position, he performed several functions both in the private and public sectors, including as Financial Advisor in a bank, as Chief of Staff in the Civil Government of Porto and as Advisor in the Municipality of Gaia. He is a former Member of the Technical Committee of RENELL, the Portuguese Network of Smart Cities in the representation of the Municipality of Gaia.



**Valentina Bastino** – *Policy Officer for EU Water Legislation and Policy, European Commission*

Valentina Bastino has been with the European Commission Directorate General for Environment since 2010. In her role, she has worked on a large range of policies, including the Water Reuse Regulation. Prior to joining the European Commission, she has worked in two Brussels-based public affairs and communication firms, where she focused on EU environmental and transport policy. Valentina Bastino holds an MSc in Environmental Change and Management from the University of Oxford, UK.



**Hugo Xambre Pereira** – *Vice President, Águas do Tejo Atlântico*

Hugo Xambre Pereira has been Executive Vice-President of Águas do Tejo Atlântico since 2017. Throughout his career, he has held public functions such as Mayor or National Financial Representative, worked in academia in the areas of operations management and logistics and as a Consultant and Senior Technician in engineering and management in a local authority. He is the author of articles in scientific management journals in the area of logistics, quality and technology parks. An engineer by training, Hugo Xambre Pereira holds an Advanced Diploma in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Management from Católica Business School.



**Eddy Troosters** – *Chief Executive Officer, PIDPA*

Eddy Troosters has 30+ years of experience as a water professional in the public sector. He started his career in De Watergroep, first as an Engineer and then moving up to the roles of Regional Director of the province of Flemish Brabant and of Executive Member. Since 2019 he holds the position of CEO of Pidpa, one of the six Flemish integral water companies operating in 64 municipalities in the province of Antwerp, Belgium. Eddy Troosters holds a degree in Civil Engineering from KU Leuven.



**Adriano Battilani** – *Secretary General, Irrigants d'Europe*

Adriano Battilani has 40+ years of experience as a Researcher and Project Manager in the fields of irrigation, fertigation and cropping system's sustainability. He currently leads Irrigants d'Europe, an umbrella organisation bringing together the irrigated agriculture sector at European level to restore legitimacy to the proper use of water resources in modern agriculture. He also supports as an External Expert the Director and the Presidency of the Italian National Association of Consortia for the Protection of Soil and Irrigation (ANBI) for the technical aspects of innovation and for European water policies, Community institutions and international organisations.



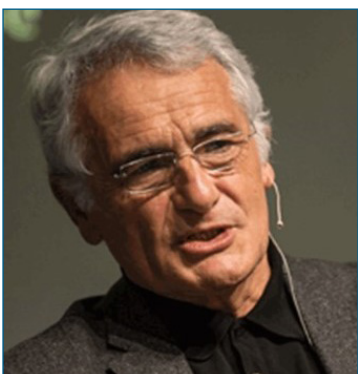
**Domenico Laforgia** – *President, Acquedotto Pugliese*

Domenico Laforgia has been President of Acquedotto Pugliese, the public water operator in the Puglia region, since 2021. He is a retired full Professor of Systems for Energy and the Environment of the Department of Engineering of the University of Salento, where he has been Dean of the Engineering Department (2001-2007) as well as Founder and Director for a three-year period of the Department of Engineering for Innovation (1999-2001). From 2007 to 2013, he has been Dean of the University of Salento, positioning it among the first 300 best universities in the world.



**Margarida Monte** – *Senior Engineer, Portuguese Water Regulator (ERSAR)*

Margarida Monte is an Environmental Engineer with an MSc in Sanitation Engineering. She started her professional career in 2001 at an engineering and consultant company working in the areas of hydraulics and environment, where she carried out several studies and projects on water and wastewater treatment plants at both national and international levels. She was a Research Fellow at Instituto Superior Técnico of the University of Lisbon, where she collaborated in the European project TRUST – Transitions to the Urban Water Services of Tomorrow. She joined ERSAR, the Portuguese water and waste services regulation authority, in 2014.



**Joaquim Poças Martins** – *Secretary General, Portuguese Water Council*

Joaquim Poças Martins leads Portugal's Water Council, an independent government advisory council for the sustainable water planning and management. He is also Professor of Hydraulics, Water Resources and Environment at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto and Consultant to the top management of water utilities and international organisations such as the World Bank, NATO and the European Commission. He is a former Secretary of State for the Environment and President of Águas de Gaia. Joaquim Poças is the author of more than 100 technical and scientific publications.



**José Pimenta Machado** – *Vice President, Portuguese Environmental Agency*

José Pimenta Machado started his career at the Integrated Management Committee of the Ave River Basin, planning and coordinating clean-up actions. He then worked in various regional environmental institutions where he focused on managing water resources. He was Director of the Department of Coastal Water Resources of ARH do Norte from 2008 to 2011 and Regional Administrator of the Northern Hydrographic Region from 2012 to 2018. Since 2018, he has been Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Environmental Agency. Has been Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sociedade Polis Litoral Norte since 2013 and Chairman of Sociedade Polis Ria de Aveiro since 2018. José Pimenta Machado is a Member of the Board of the Institute of Hydraulics and Water Resources of the Faculty of Engineering of Porto.