



ESHA Member Newsletter 08

September 2013

Foreword

Dear Members and Supporters of ESHA,

We hope you were able to refill your batteries over the summer months and are back in shape for the upcoming activities! In this edition you can find out what the ESHA Secretariat has been working on during the summer months June through August.

It is with great sadness and regret that ESHA Policy and Project Manager Oliver Jung needed to leave the Secretariat at the end of July 2013. Both board members and the Secretary General bewail this decision as Mr Jung's work resulted in a number of extraordinary successes with regard to advocacy and publication work from which the association and the small hydropower sector will continue benefiting. Please find his last update of the Policy section below.

Your ESHA Secretariat

Policy

Implementing WFD and Hydropower

In June 2013, a new programme for CIS was adopted, after long internal discussions on the change of structure. The full document available [here](#). Work is expected to start in fall 2013. In the new CIS, 9 working groups will be working in 3 new clusters:

- **Water Status** - work supporting the **ecological, chemical and quantitative** status assessment; heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs); pressures and impacts analysis; monitoring and coordination of related assessment and monitoring under water-related directives
- **Water Management** – work supporting the identification, planning and implementation of **measures** for surface and groundwaters, (covering several issues, including **energy**) while ensuring coordination with the programmes of measures developed under the MSFD and coherence with other policies. It is expected that the Programme of Measures Working Group will tackle in turn the various pressures and measures within its scope according to a prioritisation done by the WD and the SCG. The Floods Working Group will focus on the implementation of the first cycle of the Floods Directive.
- **Knowledge Integration and Dissemination** – work supporting reporting and data sharing, developing and disseminating knowledge and tools for specific areas such.

The ESHA Secretariat participated in the relevant CIS meetings and in particular the following ones:

- **1st Workshop on Guidance for ecosystem services** which took place in Brussels on the 3-4 June 2013:

A theoretical presentation shows the need and difficult to price the ecosystem services and to balance that price with other values related to water use ([see presentation](#)). Interestingly for ESHA; the presentation suggests that ecosystem services could be paid by public money and questions the compliance with WTO and State Aid rules.

- **Workshop on "Linking Water Management and WFD objectives"** which took place in Brussels on the 13th and 14th of June 2013.

This workshop provided some relevant elements for ESHA which aimed to exchange good experiences so as to influence the 2nd cycle of the RBMPs on integrating water management and Water Framework Directive principles, and improving the involvement of River Basin Authorities within the CIS:



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- Some Member States are ready to go to court to ensure that hydropower rights are changed to allow water pricing. Other Member States want to privilege a consultation process involving all stakeholders;
- For the Austrian government, it is possible to combine the RES and WFD objectives by creating incentives to increase the SHP efficiency at existing sites through technical upgrade and by providing advisory services to improve the ecological situation (see annexed presentation “Technical upgrade of hydropower plants and improving river ecology”);
- There are also examples from Baden-Württemberg (Germany) which show how it is possible for the hydropower sector to adapt to meet environmental objectives while increasing its electricity output. Sometimes, this even requires dismantling certain (wrongly located) plants and building new ones instead in other locations nearby. For SHP, the major issue is costs. A specific funding programme will therefore be set up for this purpose (for more information see annexed presentation “Integration of hydropower plants and fish passes”);
- The Guiding principles and strategic planning approach from the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) do not only provide benefits to the environmental sector. As far as the energy sector is concerned, they also allow for streamlined authorisation processes, improvement of predictability and upfront information where authorisation is likely (for more information see annexed presentation “Presentation on the guiding principles on sustainable hydropower development in the Danube Basin”). The ICPDR process is likely to be followed at the EU scale;
- A new environmental question will have to be solved soon by policy makers: how to deal with the effects of the absence of natural flow of sediments?
- The EC is looking for best-practice in the field of WFD and hydropower and will prepare a new WFD.

Award Concession Contracts

In December 2011, the Commission adopted its proposal on the award of concession contracts. This proposal is part of a package of four legislative proposals tabled by the European Commission in 2011 in the field of public procurement: three directives (“classic”, “utilities” and “concessions”) and one regulation (“third market access” or “reciprocity”).

The push of the EC to liberalise concessions has generated a lot of opposition, especially among the defenders of public services, making it a highly political topic.

The European Parliament’s competent committee as well as the Council expressed their views in 2013 and a final political agreement was reached in summer 2013 on the “concessions” directive as well as on the “classic” and “utilities” directives is also after three-way negotiations between Parliament, Council and the Commission. The political agreement is available enclosed.

The provisionally agreed text still needs to be formally approved by the Council and Parliament’s Internal Market Committee. The Committee voted on the deal on 5 September, paving the way for a plenary vote in the autumn. See [procure file](#)

The final document provides for a liberalised awarding procedure for concessions with a turnover of above 5,000,000 Euros during the whole concession period. Although the water sector has been excluded from the latest document, the ESHA Secretariat does not believe this exemption will concern hydropower, which seems to be an “energy concession” in the sense of the directive.



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Strong support for microgeneration by Energy Committee of the European Commission

The motion for a resolution drafted by Ms Judith Merkies (S&D, NL) was adopted by the Energy Committee with 49 votes in favour, none against and 1 abstention. It will be put to the plenary vote in September. See the full press release [here](#).

PR & Communication

- During the **European Sustainable Week (EUSEW)**, ESHA organised and participated in five events. Most importantly, ESHA was able to secure **two high-level policy conference** spots at the Committee of the Regions (CoR):
 1. **25/06: Hydropower: Investing in a sustainable future**, organised by ESHA, HEA-E and Eurelectric
 2. **26/06: Facilitating energy storage to allow fast growth of sustainable energy**, organised by ESHA, WIP Renewables and EASE
 3. **26/06: What are the environmental effects of Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) and how can future development proceed?** organised in the framework of the project stoRE
 4. **26/06: Renewable Energy House's Open Day 2013**, in collaboration with all associations of the Renewable Energy House
 5. **24/06 - 28/06: Photo Exhibition** in front of the European Parliament '[Renewables in Action](#)' by REVOLVE Magazine.
- On 27/06 ESHA met with the delegation of the International Energy Agency's Subtask for small-scale hydropower to discuss future collaboration on international topics.
- On behalf of ESHA, Christine Lins, former Secretary General, gave the Opening Keynote speech at the Hydrovision International Conference in Denver, Colorado on 23 -26 July.
- Between June and August, ESHA published the following articles
 - [O małych elektrowniach wodnych w Parlamencie Europejskim](#), Energetyka Wodna (06/2013)
 - [The Power of Hydro](#), Revolve Magazine Online (07/2013)
 - [Small hydropower shows its innovative side](#), New Energy (08/2013)

EU Projects

StoRE

The report *European Regulatory and Market Framework for Electricity Storage Infrastructure* aims to identify the key elements of the European market framework that potentially create unfavourable conditions for the development and operation of electricity storage infrastructure and provide policy makers with recommendations for possible improvements. Find the report on the [website](#).

RESTOR Hydro

Project partners are in finalisation process of the *Guidebook on Cooperatives*. It will be published soon on the [RESTOR Hydro website](#).

Participate in the RESTOR Hydro project! Please contact our team, if you are interested to start a restoration project in your country and/or if you know good sources and data collections for and/or abandoned SHP installations to be listed in the [RESTOR Hydro Map](#).



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Hydroenergia 2014

Over summer, the Secretariat intensified its organisation of the upcoming **Hydroenergia 2014**. Mark your calendars: ESHA's congress and trade fair will take place **21-23 May 2014 in the ICC in Istanbul Turkey**. Brochures will be online soon on the ESHA website. If you are interested to become a sponsor or exhibitor, contact [Dirk Hendricks](#) to secure your spot.

Internal

- During the summer months, ESHA tried to recuperate outstanding membership fees which are imperative for the financial sustainability of the association.
- The Secretariat consolidated pending administrative and contractual issues with the European Commission on a number of topics.
- Within the framework of the EU's Leonardo Programme, ESHA recruited a new Project Assistant Trainee, for the period September to December 2013.
- ESHA's Executive Board met on 24/06 in Brussels.
- ESHA's next Executive and Governing Board Meeting will take place on 26/09/2013 in Gdańsk, Poland.
- **ATTENTION: DATE CHANGE:** ESHA's last EB & GB meetings for 2013 will take place on the 5th December 2013 in Brussels.

Membership

- As an ESHA Member, you get a discounted entrance for RENEXPO [Poland](#) (16-17 October, Warsaw) and [Romania](#) (20-22 November, Bucharest). Please contact [Martina](#) for the online code. At RENEXPO Poland, TEW, together with TRMEW, Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery – Polish Academy of Sciences and the Norwegian Embassy are organising a whole section on hydropower with the title 'Hydropower status and outlook in Poland and Europe'. Find the announcement and sponsorship information [here](#).
- **Highlight your events** on ESHA's [event calendar](#)! Please provide [Dirk Hendricks](#) with the event name, place, dates and website link.
- Remember that **ESHA members benefit from reductions** when visiting ESHA supported events (see [event calendar](#)).
- If you like to receive the newest copies of magazines such as HRW, ZEK Hydro (English or German), New Energy, Neue Energie, REVOLVE for free, please notify [Martina](#).

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