

SIDE EVENT

Climate Resilience needs a Water-Smart Society

 22 March 2023

 12.30-14.30 EST

 EU Delegation, 666 Third Avenue,
31st floor, New York



TOPIC

Water for Climate, Resilience, and Environment: Source to Sea, Biodiversity, Climate, Resilience, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

NARRATIVE

Climate Resilience cannot be achieved without considering the Value of Water. Ensuring sustainable management of water and sanitation for all is directly linked to climate resilience and our capacity to build Water-Smart Societies.

The World Economic Forum identifies as top risks for our societies the failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation as well as natural resource crises. We need all together to embrace our societal responsibility and accelerate a paradigm shift towards circular and resilient approaches, processes, and methods.

The objective of this side event is to highlight the urge for key stakeholders such as SMEs, utilities, industry, and governments to take actions in accelerating the deployment of circular processes while extracting values for the benefits of our rural and urban communities.

One must value water of its own activities and exploit the value embedded in wastewater. Resource recovery, water reuse and energy saving are connected, then relevant stakeholders need to use systemic approach, leaving no one behind.

By taking examples from the European Research and Innovation programme and some flagship solutions from the European market, this event will demonstrate how the local partners can act locally and globally to impact and accelerate the implementation of key solutions.

Water Europe and Ragn-Sells in partnership with the Consulate of Sweden in New York, Bioazul, Suez and Xylem will invite stakeholders to discuss the needed actions to deploy circular solutions for climate resilience and their benefits in line with the 2030 Agenda.



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AGENDA

5 min Introduction

Durk Krol, Executive Director of Water Europe

5 min High-Level Welcome

Dr. Daniel Westlén, State Secretary to Minister for Climate and the Environment

10 min Keynote

Chrysi Lapidou, Vice President of Water Europe, coordinator of ARSINOE project

40 min Exchange: Which tools can industry leverage to be water-smart?

Moderator

Pär Larshans, Chief Sustainability Corporate Responsibility and Public Affairs officer, Ragn-Sells

Panellists

- Antonia Lorenzo, CEO, Bioazul, Coordinator of the BONEX project
- Austin Alexander, VP Sustainability and Social Impact at Xylem
- Cyril Courjaret, CEO International at SUEZ
- UNEP representative – tbc
- Jake Levine, Chief Climate Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation

5 min Conclusion

Durk Krol, Executive Director of Water Europe

Reception lunch and networking

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SPEAKERS

Durk Krol, Executive Director, Water Europe

Durk Krol is Director of Water Europe. He joined the Association in 2008, first as a Board Member and Treasurer. He has worked in the water sector at the European level for the last 13 years, initially as a Senior Legal Policy Officer for the water department of provincial government of Friesland (NL). As Deputy Secretary General of the European federation of national water associations of water suppliers and wastewater services (EUREAU), he was actively promoting the common interests of the European water service sector to the EU institutions and stakeholders which enabled its members to adequately deal with opportunities arising from EU policy and its national implementation. He has also closely been involved in the creation of the EP Water Group in the European Parliament.



Dr. Daniel Westlén, State Secretary to Minister for Climate and the Environment



Dr. Daniel Westlén is the Swedish State Secretary to Minister for Climate and the Environment. He was born in 1976 and lives in Stockholm. From 2001 to 2007, he studied at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, where he held a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Science. He worked at Vattenfall AB, at the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company and lastly at the Liberal Party Secretariat. He also was Council member at the Swedish Association of Graduate Engineers and Director at the Swedish Centre for Nuclear Technology.



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Chrysi Laspidou, Vice President of Water Europe, coordinator of ARSINOE project

Chrysi Laspidou is a Professor at the Civil Engineering Department, University of Thessaly and a collaborating faculty at the ATHENA Research Center in Greece. She is the Vice-President of Collaboration at Water Europe and a member of the Steering Committee of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus Knowledge Action Network at Future Earth. She is the Chair of the COST Action NEXUSNET and the coordinator of the H2020 project ARSINOE. She has spent 15 years in the USA, where she conducted all her studies and obtained her degrees from reputable institutions. She has published over 70 articles in scientific journals and conference proceedings and her work is widely recognized with currently over 3600 citations.



Pär Larshans, Chief Sustainability Corporate Responsibility and Public Affairs officer, Ragn-Sells



Pär Larshans is Director of Sustainability at Ragn-Sells, which is family owned, operating in several countries with recycling but with potential for a world market for reversed chemical engineering with recycling from different water sources. With more than 30 years of experience of working with sustainability management in several different positions Pär has received the following recognitions. The Green award in the international category for sustainability communication – “for putting the carbon (CO₂) on the menu”, London 2009. In January 2020, 2014, and 2013 the Trust Across America (New York) listed Larshans as one of TOP 100 Trust Thought Leaders global ranking. He was appointed as co-chair at International Chamber of Commerce working group for circular economy – (Paris).



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Antonia Lorenzo, CEO, Bioazul, Coordinator of the BONEX project

Antonia Lorenzo is founder, CEO and R&D director at BIOAZUL. She has worked for more than 20 years in the management and implementation of more than 60 national and international projects, mainly related to blue infrastructures for the sustainable water management - treatment, water reuse, ecological sanitation, nature-based solutions – as well as circular economy and resources sustainability. She works for the European Commission as an external expert in aspects related to intellectual protection and exploitation. Since 2018 Antonia leads the Working Group of Water Europe on Water & Sustainable Agrifood Systems. Antonia is member of the Spanish Management Committee of the Circular City COST Action, and also the president of the Spanish “Nature-based solution Cluster” established in the city of Málaga in 2018. Finally, she is member of the Governing Council of the Andalusian Knowledge Agency. Antonia is also a mentor for the EIT Food Accelerator Network, the Cajamar Innova Incubator and has recently been selected as a mentor in the European Commission's “EIC Women Leadership Program”.



Austin Alexander, VP Sustainability and Social Impact at Xylem



Austin Alexander is Vice President, Sustainability and Social Impact at Xylem. In this role, she is responsible for Xylem’s global sustainability programs and Xylem’s corporate social value program, Watermark. Xylem is working towards their 2025 corporate sustainability goals, which include goals of utilizing solutions to reduce pollution in waterways, reuse of wastewater, creating a more diverse workplace, and commitments to donate 1% of profits and employee time to water-related causes. Austin joined Xylem in 2013 and has had several roles including customer service, engineering, sales, and investor relations function. Throughout her tenure, she has been involved in volunteering and leading events through Xylem’s Watermark program. Austin graduated from Gonzaga University with a bachelor’s degree in Engineering Management and received a Master’s in Business Administration at Wake Forest University. She is currently based in Big Timber, Montana, USA.



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Cyril Courjaret, CEO International at SUEZ

Cyril Courjaret is Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ International Businesses. He joined SUEZ in 1992 as Sales Engineer based in Mexico and became Sales Director for South America. In 2003, he was appointed CEO of PPP activities in Mexico, then in 2006 CEO of Water Treatment Infrastructure activities in Southern France and then for Africa in 2010. In 2012, Cyril Courjaret was appointed Senior VP of the Rhône Alpes Auvergne Region of Water France. In 2019, he becomes Chief Executive Officer of SUEZ Middle East & Central Asia adding Africa to his responsibility in 2021. Since May 2022, he has been the CEO of International activities covering both water and waste sectors on the international footprint of Suez including 15000 people based in Asia, Australia, India, Europe, Middle East and Africa. With over 25 years of professional background, he has built a strong experience in water and waste sectors, from the upstream development to the tendering, delivery and operations. He has led an international career throughout Europe, South America, Africa and the Middle East where he held different managing positions in water, sanitation and solid waste industries both in services and infrastructures.





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Jake Levine, Chief Climate Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation



Jake Levine serves as Chief Climate Officer of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation, where he leads the agency's climate team, and is responsible for setting the vision for and implementing DFC's climate finance agenda. He also serves on DFC's Risk Committee, and works closely with DFC's Public Board agencies—the U.S. Departments of State, Treasury, Commerce, and the U.S. Agency for International Development—to coordinate administration policy in climate finance. Mr. Levine previously served in government in the White House Office of Energy and Climate Change, where he developed innovative energy policies, including the most stringent fuel economy standards ever set and the first-ever greenhouse gas emissions standards for cars and trucks, and later as Senior Counsel to California State Senator Fran Pavley, where he led the successful campaigns to draft, design, and enact SB 32 (Pavley) and AB 197 (Garcia)—landmark California climate and environmental justice legislation. Mr. Levine also served as Chief of Staff to the President of Opower, a software firm (now Oracle Utilities) that uses big data and behavioral science technology to help consumers save energy. Mr. Levine sits on the Board of Grid Alternatives of Los Angeles, a non-profit focused on creating jobs in the clean energy transition, and is an advisor to the California Climate Action Corps, a statewide service corps focused on climate resilience in underserved communities, which he helped to design and launch as a consultant to Governor Newsom. Mr. Levine holds a B.A. from Harvard College and a law degree from Harvard Law School.