

Commissioner Thierry Breton  
Internal Market  
European Commission  
B-1049 Brussels – Belgium

Brussels, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

## **Subject: Main priorities for water under the Commission 2019-2024**

Dear Commissioner,

For nine consecutive years, the World Economic Forum has ranked water crises as a top global societal risk in terms of impact on every aspect of our lives. The post COVID19 situation in Europe is a wake-up call to switch to a new paradigm in which consideration for water security and risk management are prerequisites.

The EU Water Alliance, composed of a broad range of water-related stakeholders, has therefore addressed key messages to Von der Leyen's Commission (see annex 1). You are entrusted with the role of Commissioner for the Internal Market to establish a framework which will permit Europe to benefit from the digital transition and guarantee that our industry is prepared to face, with confidence, water-related challenges which directly impact your mission due to the fact that, if not addressed, they may reduce the resilience of our industry.

**Therefore, this broad coalition of water-related stakeholders kindly requests a meeting with you to discuss a number of challenges and opportunities. Water is a key element within your portfolio that specifically has an impact on society in Europe and beyond:**

- The central challenge that water-related risks represent in this decade for industrial strategy, food security, the restoration of biodiversity and attempts to achieve a zero-pollution and carbon neutral, renewable energy-based society. Many opportunities lie ahead to enable the integration of sustainable and circular economy solutions within industrial practices, thus resulting in a long-term sustainable approach.
- The opportunity offered by the Green Deal to promote the visibility of water-related challenges and eliminate the silo-approach by presenting a full picture of their connections to health, education, sustainable economic development, industry, innovation, security, digitalisation, gender equality, agriculture and oceans, to name but a few examples. By investing in a European Water Smart Society, Europe will contribute to ensuring the resilience of both SMEs and industry whilst fostering the single market.

# EU Water Alliance

- The key role of economy digitalisation and particularly of A.I., in securing the necessary quality and quantity of water for the economy as a whole. Digitalisation will have an immense impact on the water sector and is expected to greatly support and contribute to the achievement of the EU Green Deal.

We are determined to form a proactive part of the solution.

Therefore, we look forward to scheduling a meeting to discuss these issues at your earliest convenience. The contact point for further communication is Durk Krol, Water Europe Executive director, durk.krol@watereurope.eu, tel: +32 2 7068292

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Water Europe Director  
Durk Krol



On behalf of:



Enclosed:

- Annex 1: EUWA Manifesto