

Statement on the hearing of the Commissioner-designate responsible for DG ENERGY POLICY

Water and energy are both essential to society. The International Energy Agency has acknowledged that water is becoming a pressing issue in energy production. On the other hand the water sector is very much dependent on the energy sector, requiring significant amounts of energy.

- 1. The new Commissioner should recognise the importance and the dependence of the energy sector on water and thus has to ensure that energy policy must be based on water quantity and quality considerations.**

EU energy policy needs to recognise the interdependence within the energy-water-food nexus. For example, in irrigation. Biofuel production is strongly increasing the pressure on water resources both in terms of quality and quantity. The emerging fracking technology requires water during shale gas production but, more importantly, fracking may pose a risk to water resources.

- 2. The new Commissioner should**

- ensure investment in research, development and market uptake of**
(a) technologies to reduce the energy use of the water sector,
(b) technologies to recover and generate energy from (waste)water and
(c) emerging technologies for water-based renewable energies.
- be committed to stimulate Renewable Energy from Water in an environmentally sustainable way and to guarantee the adaptation of a regulatory framework to small scale energy production.**

Today's water infrastructure is often not energy efficient. As assets are replaced and modernized, this provides ample opportunity to increase energy savings. Biogas from waste water treatment plants, heat recovery from sewage systems may even lead to energy surplus. Aquifer thermal energy storage, wave energy, tidal energy, and blue energy are all emerging technologies that can play a major role in increasing Europe's energy resilience. However the current regulatory framework poses a barrier for market deployment.

- 3. The new Commissioner should commit to introduce new systems of investments in the adaptation of energy infrastructure to increasing hydrological extremes.**

Energy production is dependent on water availability. Flood events or prolonged periods of droughts may affect energy production. Energy infrastructures need to be adapted to these extremes.

