

Conference: Improving water resilience in the EU

Background

The European Commission launched a communication about an EU water resilience strategy which - as demonstrated by the theme of EU Green Week - was a priority in 2024. We need to boost Europe's water resilience through healthy freshwater ecosystems to provide water for our crops and livestock and ensure our drinking water supply for the long-term. We organize this conference as part of the [Civil EU Presidency](#) which is a joint series of events by the Great Lakes and Wetlands Association and the Civilisation Coalition to amplify the voice of civil society. The main aim of the conference is to keep water resilience on the EU agenda for the period of the next European Commission between 2024 and 2029.

Location: Magnet Bank HQ, Budapest, Andrásy út 98, 1062

Date: 12-13 September 2024

More information: nagytavak@gmail.com

[Registration form \(waiting list, click\)](#)

Partners: European Environmental Bureau, Friends of Fertő Lake Association, Wild Europe Foundation, Great Lakes and Wetlands Association

The conference will be held in English language without translation.

DAY1 - 12th Sept. - THE STATUS OF OUR FRESHWATER RESOURCES

8:00 - 8:45 Registration

9:00 Introductory session: Setting the scene

- Pressures on European water resources
Caroline Whalley, European Environment Agency (EEA)
- Introducing the EU Water Resilience Strategy (online)
Daniela Buzica, EU Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENV)
- Shallow Lakes, Deep Changes
Viktor Tóth, Balaton Limnological Research Institute

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 Policy session 1: How to guarantee good quality water - pollution of our waters

DEMOCRACY - SOLIDARITY - GREEN TRANSITION

This event is part of the Civil EU Presidency initiative, which aims to amplify the voice of science and civil society organisations during the Hungarian EU Presidency
For further information about our events please visit <https://civilpresidency.hu/>

- The importance of implementing the EU Water Pollution regulations
Ewa Leś, Clean Baltic Coalition, River University
- Water pollution threats to our freshwater resources
Gergely Simon, PAN Europe
- Water quality protection in Hungary
Péter Kajner, WWF Hungary, Living Rivers Programme project manager

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 Policy session 2: The Water Framework Directive

- The recovery of European freshwater biodiversity has come to a halt
Gábor Várbíró, Ecolres, HUN-REN
- What improvements are needed to deliver the Water Framework Directive commitment
Sara Johansson, European Environmental Bureau
- NGO call for a new EU climate and water resilience law
Paul Brotherton, Wetlands International

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Reality session: Our freshwater resources in Hungary

- Modeling for a change in water management
Zsolt Pinke, Eötvös Loránd University, Department of Physical Geography
- Loving them to death - How we can save our lakes from over development
Zoltán Kun, Great Lakes and Wetlands Association
- Linking law and ecology - the example of Balaton Green Minimum
Nóra Aujeszky, Hungarian Civil Liberties Union

DAY 2 - 13th Sept. - OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED

9:00 Policy session 3: Restore our freshwater habitats

- Rewilding Oder Delta - the benefits of large scale restoration of freshwater habitats
Artur Furdyna, Rewilding Oder Delta
- The economic benefits from restoration
Gábor Ungvári, Regional Centre for Energy Policy Research
- Re-establish freshwater wilderness
Toby Aykroyd, Wild Europe Foundation

10:30 Coffee break

DEMOCRACY - SOLIDARITY - GREEN TRANSITION

This event is part of the Civil EU Presidency initiative, which aims to amplify the voice of science and civil society organisations during the Hungarian EU Presidency
For further information about our events please visit <https://civilpresidency.hu/>

11:00 Dreaming session: Water resilience across borders

- Thinking big to restore biodiversity and carbon sequestration in middle Danube region
Tamás Rédei, HUN-REN Ecological Research Centre
- Fertő/Neusiedlersee - Seewinkel - Hanság - the grand vision for nature
Bernhard Kohler, WWF Austria

12:30 Lunch break

14:00 Science session 1: International projects

- Improving the status of our lakes through the European Living Lakes Association
Udo Gattenlöhner, European Living Lakes Association/Global Nature Fund
- Introducing the Peatland Alliance
Eliza Óhegyi, CEEweb
- Retain water and nutrients in small agricultural catchments - the OPTAIN project
Brigitta Szabó, HUN-REN Centre for Agricultural Research, Institute for Soil Sciences

15:30 Coffee break

16:00 Science session 2: International projects

- The living laboratories of Alfa wetlands
Liisa Ukonmaanaho, Luke - Natural Resources Institute
- Introducing EuroLakes
Paul Brotherton, Wetlands International Europe
- Life Logos 4 Waters Hungarian case study
Fruzsina Markó, Municipality of Bátya

17:30 Wrap up and conference closing

DEMOCRACY - SOLIDARITY - GREEN TRANSITION

This event is part of the Civil EU Presidency initiative, which aims to amplify the voice of science and civil society organisations during the Hungarian EU Presidency

For further information about our events please visit <https://civilpresidency.hu/>