

WAREG oral message at the Danube Water Conference (Vienna, 7-9 May 2014)

On 23rd April the 1st meeting of the Water Regulators' Network (WAREG) took place in Milan at the Italian Regulatory Authority for Electricity Gas and Water (AEEGSI) headquarters.

During the meeting, 12 European Water Regulators from Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Scotland, Spain were present and they formally agreed on the creation of WAREG – The Water Regulators Network.

They stressed the necessity and the importance to collaborate on regulatory issues of common interest, and to start an institutional and fruitful dialogue with EU Institutions, in particular with the European Commission.

General objectives of WAREG will be the following ones:

- to exchange common practices, information, joint analysis and comparison of existing water sector regulatory models and performance of water utilities;
- to organise specialised training, technical assistance, exchange of know-how and experience;
- to promote best-practice and stable regulation of the water sector at European level for water and waste water services, aimed at supporting the sustainability of the services, adequate infrastructure investment, proper service quality standards and consumer protection;
- to prepare common positions about regulatory issues and speak with a stronger voice at EU level;
- to conduct an open dialogue with other relevant regional and international organisations and national institutions, with particular focus on European issues in the field of water services.

At the meeting it was decided to create an “informal Secretariat”, in support of WAREG future activities.

The 2nd WAREG meeting will take place in Lisbon (Portugal) in September this year, at the occasion of the IWA (International Water Association) World Water Congress and Exhibition.