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# 11th EWA Brussels Conference "Water Challenges in Europe"

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Held in cooperation with the DG Environment of the European Commission, the main objective of the annual EWA Brussels Conference is to establish a dialogue between the European Commission and European water professionals and stakeholders.

Water status in Europe is slowly improving. In 2009, only 43 % of EU surface waters have reached good ecological status. In 2015, it is already 53 %. The EU water policy has helped develop a dynamic world-leading water sector. There are still some existing challenges and Europe is striving to reach a good ecological status of its water. Agriculture is still a significant pressure on water, as well as other hydro morphological pressure. Europe is preparing by the end of 2015 plans to improve EU's waters and to reduce the risk of flooding to what we value the most : our health and the environment, our heritage and economies. There is an enormous potential for economic savings if floods are adequately managed.