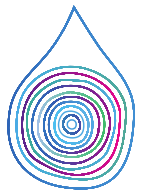




Micropollutants in water: the source control approach

Bruno Tisserand – EurEau President

European Parliament, Strasbourg, 28 October 2015



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Water Matters

About EurEau

EurEau

the voice of Europe's water sector **since 1975.**

Our members

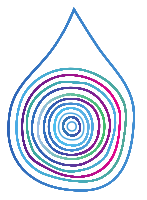
are the national water services associations **from 28 European countries.**

We represent

public and private drinking and waste water **services providers.**

Employing

500,000 people, the sector makes a significant contribution to the European economy.



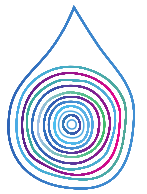
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9 Challenges for EurEau

1. Protecting a vulnerable resource
2. Fostering sustainable economic growth and creating jobs
3. Promoting the value of water in the circular economy
- 4. Source-control approach for micropollutants**
5. Setting the right price for water services
6. Growing impact of climate change on water
7. Resource efficiency in the water sector
8. Managing long-term assets in a fast changing environment
9. Increasing the public understanding of the water sector

Micropollutants

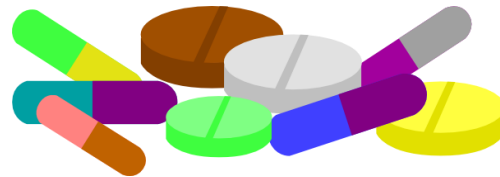


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Households
products:
detergents,
paints



Pharmaceutical
products



Pesticides



Dyes and
microplastics
from textiles

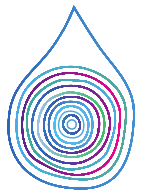


Cosmetics

Veterinary
pharmaceuticals



WW and DW



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Micropollutants enter the water cycle through different pathways: air, soil (urban and rural), with run-off going directly into water or wastewater.

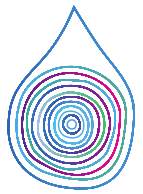
Micropollutants are a challenge not only for:

- ~ waste water operators (protection of the environment and ecosystems) and
- ~ drinking water operators (protection of public health)

but also for all industries, farmers and urban activities using those micropollutants.

Waste water

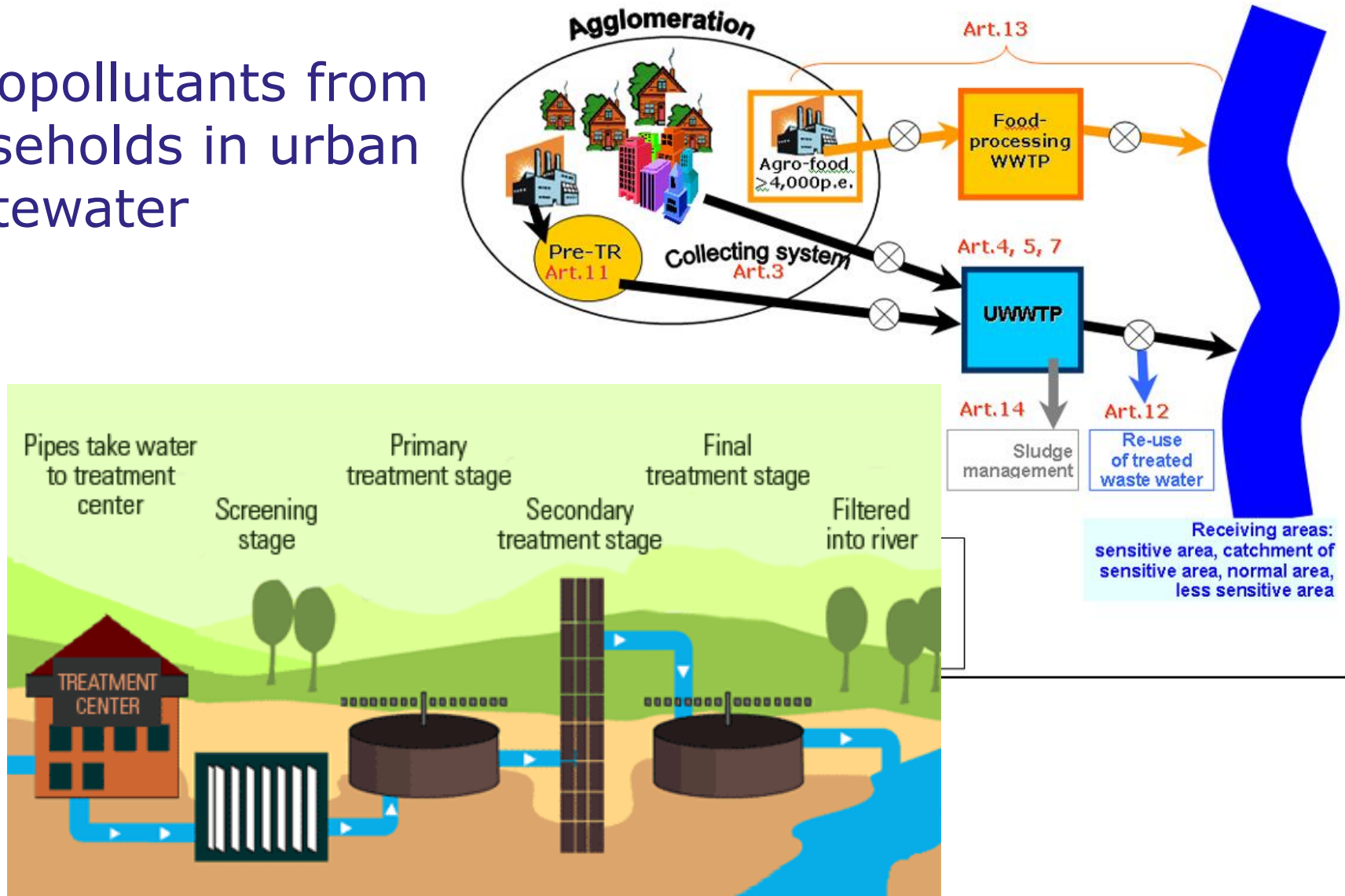
Micropollutants from households in urban wastewater



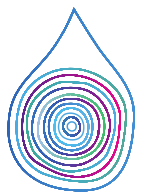
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Waste water

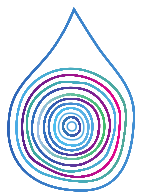


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- ~ WW services are essential to the development of water-related economic and recreational activities such as **bathing, water sports, aquaculture**.
- ~ WW represents an important contribution to the circular economy through **water reuse** and **nutrients recovery**.
- ~ WW services are confronted with the consequences of **extreme weather events** and **climate change**: the volumes of waste water to be treated can be huge and public health, civil protection and the local economy are the priority.

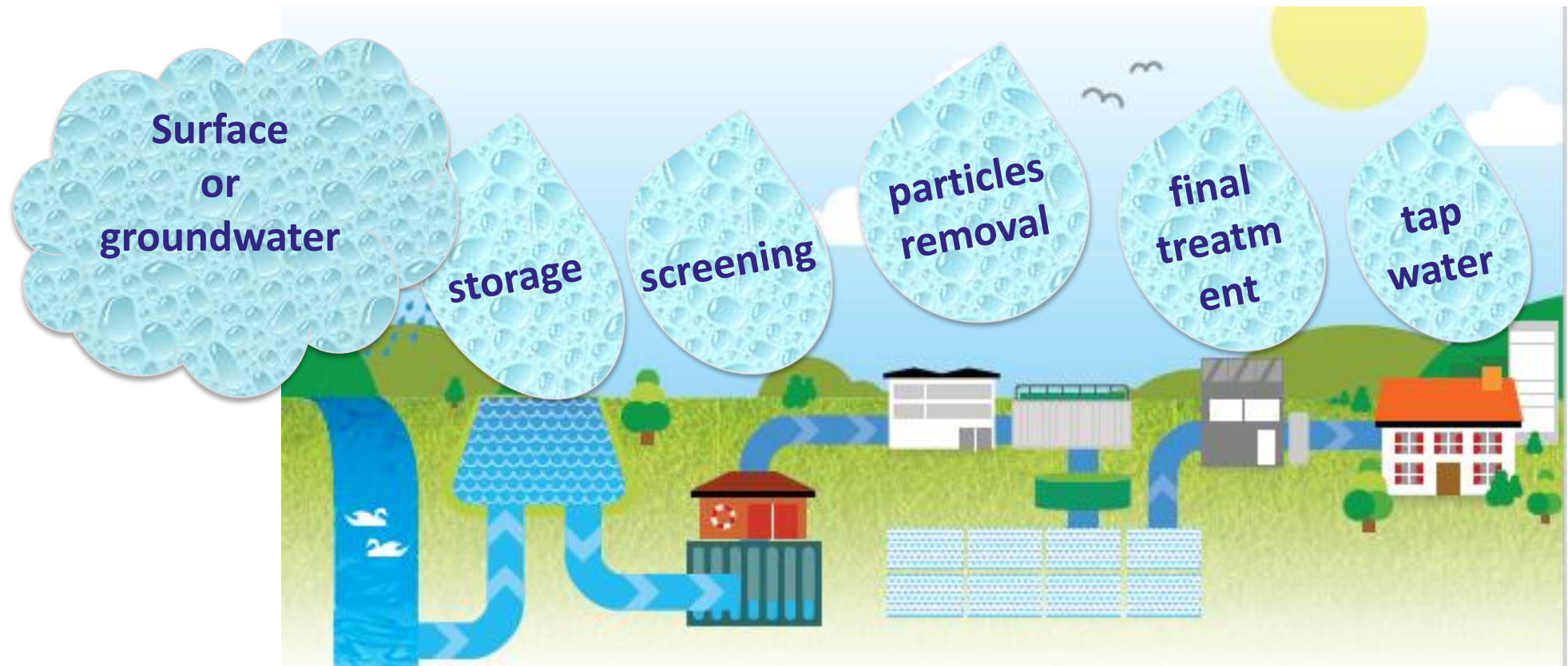
Drinking water

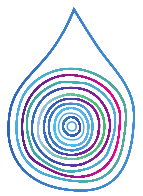


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Drinking water treatments can remove micropollutants today, but what about the **future** with a **growing number of substances** at **higher concentrations**?





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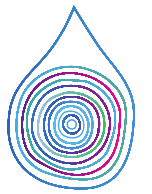
The problem

~ Ageing society → population will increase

~ More products → will be used by more users

How can we ensure that also in the future the **environment is protected** and water resources used for the **abstraction of drinking water** do not deteriorate so that **future generations can enjoy the right to safe and affordable drinking water and sanitation services?**

Solutions: treatment



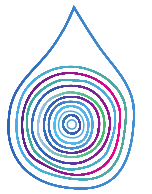
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There are innovative technologies that might be applied at the level of WWTP in order to reduce the substances in the treated water effluents but:

1. They are **not economically sustainable** (increased costs for WW treatment could range between 20-80€ pp/y)
2. They are **not environmentally sustainable** (increased energy consumption, increased use of chemicals and sludge handling)
3. The removal rate is **never 100%**
4. End-of-pipe treatments could be seen as **the only solution** and efforts on source control could be reduced
5. There is **no «one-catch-all»** treatment: treatments are substance-specific.

Solutions: source control

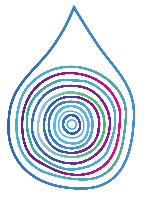


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Art. 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, stating that “*the Union policy on the environment [....] It shall be based on the **precautionary principle** and on the principles that **preventive action should be taken**, that **environmental damage should as a priority be rectified at source** and that the **polluter should pay**”.*

Call for action



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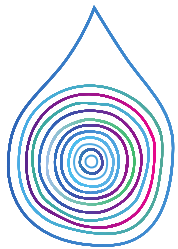
EurEau calls on the EU institutions to:

- ~ Legislate considering **life-cycle approach** to substances
- ~ Come up with a **strategic approach** to **micropollutants** based on the **source control principle**
- ~ Contribute to raise awareness with **citizens.**

Thank you

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Water matters

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