



URSULA VON DER LEYEN, PRESIDENT

MAROS SEFCOVIC, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

VIRGINIUS SINKEVICIUS, ENVIRONMENT COMMISSIONER

CHARLES MICHEL, PRESIDENT EUROPEAN COUNCIL

ALEXANDER DE GROO, PRIME MINISTER OF BELGIUM

ROBERTA METSOLA, PRESIDENT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

CC: POLITICAL GROUPS IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT | EU ADVISORY BODIES

Brussels, 6 March 2024

Subject: European and international building contractors call for prioritisation of water in 2024-2029 – Investing in water is a long-term investment in Europe’s economic prosperity

Honourable President,
Honourable Vice President, Honourable Commissioner,
Honourable Prime Minister,

FIEC - the European Construction Industry Federation and EIC – European International Contractors, their more than 30 member federations in 28 European countries and their 3 million companies, representing more than 10 % of the EU-27 GDP, support the European Economic and Social Committee’s (EESC) plans for strong European action on water resilience and security.

Alongside a “European Industrial Deal” (Antwerp Declaration), European defense, and green investment, tackling water stress and natural disasters (“water challenges”) should be a top political priority for the next European Commission and European Parliament. Water stress and floods have become not only a climate change issue, with already devastating consequences for society, but also an economic issue, and therefore require a strong response.

European and international contractors are heavily involved in water-related construction projects and provide services that are essential for a “Blue Deal”, from building, repairing and maintaining water transport networks, treatment and desalination plants to flood protection facilities. We are ‘enablers’ of a potential Blue Deal, not just in the EU and Europe, but also outside European borders.

The Water Resilience Initiative, which we hope will be published in the coming months, can only be a starting point for a more comprehensive European water strategy. Water is a critical resource, not only for human survival, but also for political and economic stability and industrial prosperity – in the EU-27 and internationally. Investing in water today is a long-term investment in the (economic) future and well-being of the EU and the world.

A Blue Deal can also contribute to the objectives of the Green Deal: For example, by eliminating leaks in supply networks and groundwater-based sewer networks, we can run water treatment plants and pumping stations more efficiently, prevent parasitic water from entering these networks, and reduce the amount of wastewater that needs to be treated, meaning less greenhouse gas emissions and helping to decarbonise a large part of Europe's water industry.

We urge you to follow up on the Council conclusions and European Parliament resolutions on water and to prioritise the fight against Europe’s water challenges in the period 2024-2029.

Please find attached a joint position on the “Blue Deal” in which we outline 5 proposals and ideas on how to put water at the forefront of European policy. This position is also supported by *CICA – The Confederation of International Contractors’ Associations*.

Without safe and sufficient water, everything is nothing. We thank you for your consideration.



Philip Crampton
-President FIEC-



Benoît Chauvin
-President EIC-



Philippe Dessoy
-President CICA-

[FIEC-EIC Joint Call for European Blue Deal](#) | [FIEC-EIC-ENCORD Manifesto on achieving Carbon Neutrality](#) | [FIEC Manifesto for Action – EU Term 2024-2029](#) | [FIEC Statistical Report 2023](#)

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