# Workshop Session 1

## "STRATEGIES FOR MANAGING EXCESS WATER"

**Chair: Grete Aspelund (FIEC Vice-President for Environmental Affairs)**

Academic guidance: Anastasios Stamou (Professor of Water Resources and Environmental Engineering, National Technical University of Athens)

When presenting the latest reports on the state of water in the EU, Commissioner Roswall underlined that our waters are polluted, that our water supply is under threat, and that we are not reducing the risk of serious floods enough. This session is aimed at addressing the issue of **excess water**.

Recent events in Spain and Central and Eastern Europe in 2024 have shown us the terrible consequences of flooding. Heavy rainfall resulted in overflowing rivers and canals, causing many deaths, and damaged buildings and infrastructure (i.e. railways). These risks will become more intense and regular with climate change. In the aftermath of these disasters, much needs to be **rebuilt, repaired or renovated**. **This puts the construction industry at the forefront, with many challenges on how to build more resilient structures and what solutions can be provided for the existing ones.**

The issue of excess water also touches upon **protection from rising sea levels** and **strategies for addressing coastal erosion**. Exposed Member States such as the Netherlands have built more than 20,000 km of dikes and many dams to limit the risk of flooding. **Soil sealing** is another topic to be addressed in this workshop, as it contributes to increased rainwater runoff.

**Case studies:**

*Flooding in Valencia (Spain) and infrastructure: Are they cost-effective for risk reduction?* **Dr. Félix Francés**, Vice-President of PTEA (Spanish Water Technology Platform) and Professor of Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering at the Polytechnic University of Valencia, will talk about the 2024 events and hydraulic infrastructure that could have mitigated its consequences, incl. actions for the future.

*Building for a better society – "New Slussen" Stockholm (Sweden):* **Jan Udén** is the responsible Project Manager of Skanska and will share insights and practical approaches behind this engineering achievement, which effectively regulates the water level between the Baltic Sea and Lake Mälaren.

**Possible points for discussion**

- Construction companies are extensively involved in water-related projects and provide essential services related to water infrastructure. These services are mainly provided to local authorities, public enterprises, private enterprises, or the State/Government. How can adequate financial resources be guaranteed, by facilitating public and private investments?
- How can collaborative water management and Public-Private Initiatives for a sustainable future create cohesive strategies and promote projects that prioritise shared water resilience goals?
- Soil sealing and increased rainwater runoff bring the obligation to integrate stormwater management systems into new projects. How can construction companies effectively integrate those systems without significantly increasing costs? What are potential long-term benefits?

*This note provides an initial indicative overview of the issues to be developed in workshop session No.1. It is not exhaustive and aims at guiding the brainstorming discussion.*

| Country | Federation | Name |
|---|---|---|
| Norway | EBA | Ms. Grete Aspelund |
| Greece | National Technical University of Athens | Mr. Anastasios Stamou |
| Spain | Spanish Water Technology Platform | Dr. Félix Francés |
| Sweden | Project Manager Skanska | Mr. Jan Udén |
| Europe | FIEC | Ms. Lena Guyon |
| Belgium | CICA | Mr. Dessoy Philippe |
| Belgium | Embuild | Mr. Christophe Maes |
| Belgium | Embuild | Mr. Johan Willemen |
| Belgium | Embuild / FABA | Mr. Patrice Dresse |
| Belgium | Embuild / FABA | Mr. Michel Roovers |
| Belgium | Embuild / FABA | Mr. Eric Leskens |
| Belgium | Embuild / FABA | Mr. Claudio Grancitelli |
| Bulgaria | BCC | Mr. Iliyan Terziev |
| Bulgaria | BCC | Mr. Ivan Terziev |
| Bulgaria | BCC | Mr. Nikolay Nikolov |
| Bulgaria | BCC | Mr. Dimitar Koparov |
| Cyprus | OSEOK | Mr Stelios Gavriel |
| Cyprus | OSEOK | Mr Stephanos Pierides |
| Cyprus | OSEOK | Mr Yiannos Poymboyris |
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| Europe | FIEC | Mr. Romain Hernard |
| France | FNTP | Mr. Jean-Louis Marchand |
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| France | FNTP | Ms. Andine Canton |
| France | Les Canalisateurs | Ms Leslie Laroche |
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| Germany | ZDB | Mr. Philipp Mesenburg |
| Greece | PEDMEDE | Mr. Panagiotis Tolias |
| Greece | PEDMEDE | Mr. Marinos Lazarou |
| Greece | PEDMEDE | Mr. Antonios Panas |
| Ireland | CIF | Mr. Philip Crampton |
| Ireland | CIF | Mr. Stephen McCarthy |
| Ireland | CIF | Mr. Hubert Fitzpatrick |
| Norway | EBA | Mr. Kjetil Tonning |
| Romania | ARACO | Mr. Laurentiu Plosceanu |
| Spain | CNC | Mr. Mariano Sanz |
| Spain | CNC | Ms. Maria Ángeles Asenjo |
| Sweden | Byggföretagen | Ms. Carin Stoeckmann |
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