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“Living Rivers Europe” platform launched for the upcoming review of the Water Framework Directive

A coalition of five NGOs including the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) has launched a platform called “Living Rivers Europe” to closely monitor the upcoming review process of the EU Water Framework Directive¹.

On the 22nd March 2017 - the day celebrated at the global level as “[World Water Day](#)” - an event took place at the European Parliament entitled “**The Water Framework Directive – Lifeline for European Waters**” organised by the *Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment*.

The event was chaired by four Members of the European Parliament, from four different political groups, with a strong interest in this topic: MEP **Ulrike Rodust** (S&D), MEP **Franc Bogovic** (EPP), MEP **Gerben-Jan Gerbrandy** (ALDE) and MEP **Linnea Engström** (Greens).

The European Commission, represented by **François Wakenhut**, Director of the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Environment, and stakeholders from both NGOs and the industries concerned (Copa Cogeca, Vorarlberger Illwerke AG – an Austrian Hydropower Company) were invited as speakers.

The NGO alliance “**Living Rivers Europe**” was then officially launched to achieve and secure healthy freshwater ecosystems, with a strong emphasis on the **Water Framework Directive** review process. “**Living Rivers Europe**” will campaign for a better implementation, a stricter enforcement and the upkeep of today’s Water Framework Directive’s standards. You can read more about its objectives [here](#).

“**Living Rivers Europe**” is made up of five international environmental NGOs: the European Anglers Alliance (EAA), the European Environment Bureau (EEB), the European Rivers Network (ERN), the Wetlands International European Association (WI-EA) and the WWF, European Policy Office (WWF EPO).

For the new platform “**Living Rivers Europe**” this day marked the beginning of a working process that will stretch into the year 2019.

¹ The **Water Framework Directive** (WFD) is an EU legislation adopted in 2000 recognising the poor condition of our inland waterways with a legally binding target to achieve good ecological status by 2015. This legislation has contributed to the improvement of water protection in the EU. However, in 2012 the European Commission realised that many Member States would miss the 2015 target as 47% of the EU waters at the time had not reached the good status objectives that were set. A review of this crucial piece of environmental legislation shall take place in 2019 and stakeholders are already getting engaged.



Pictures below:



The speakers of the event with three of the Chairs. From left to right: Roberto Eppe – ERN, Cy Griffin - Wetlands International, Valentin Opfermann- Copa Cogeca, Mark Owen – EAA, MEP Linnea Engström, MEP Ulrike Rodust, Pieter de Pous – EEB, François Wakenhut – European Commission, Geneviève Pons – WWF EPO, Peter Matt - Vorarlberger Illwerke AG, MEP Franc Bogovic.



The meeting room inside the European Parliament.

Agenda: www.eaa-europe.org/european-parliament-forum/ep-recfishing-forum-events/

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About the RecFishing Forum:

The **European Parliament Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment** is supported by the European Anglers Alliance (EAA) and the European Fishing Tackle Trade Association (EFTTA).

Much legislation dealt with by the European parliament has a direct impact on the aquatic environment and fish stocks and Thereby, an impact on the quality of the angling experience and well-being of the angling community.

This Forum on Recreational Fisheries and Aquatic Environment objectives are:

- To improve the contact and communication between MEPs and their 25 million angling constituents;
- To serve as a forum for discussion on issues related to the European Parliament agenda such as the Implementation of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy, recreational fishing, biodiversity, invasive species, Water Framework Directive, ecosystem services, rural development, fishing tourism and other relevant issues;
- To give MEPs access to EAA and EFTTA in-house experts and broad network of scientists.