



European Union Network for the Implementation
and Enforcement of Environmental Law

IMPEL Water & Land Conference

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Introduction to IMPEL

The European Union Network for the Implementation and Enforcement of Environmental Law (IMPEL) is an international non-profit association of the environmental authorities of the EU Member States, acceding and candidate countries of the European Union and EEA countries. The association is registered in Belgium and its legal seat is in Brussels, Belgium.

IMPEL was set up in 1992 as an informal Network of European regulators and authorities concerned with the implementation and enforcement of environmental law. The Network's objective is to create the necessary impetus in the European Community to make progress on ensuring a more effective application of environmental legislation. The core of the IMPEL activities concerns awareness raising, capacity building and exchange of information and experiences on implementation, enforcement and international enforcement collaboration as well as promoting and supporting the practicability and enforceability of European environmental legislation.

During the previous years IMPEL has developed into a considerable, widely known organisation, being mentioned in a number of EU legislative and policy documents, e.g. the 7th Environment Action Programme and the Recommendation on Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections.

The expertise and experience of the participants within IMPEL make the network uniquely qualified to work on both technical and regulatory aspects of EU environmental legislation.

Information on the IMPEL Network is also available through its website at: www.impel.eu

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<p>Executive Summary</p> <p>IMPEL has been asked by the European Commission to expand and apply its capability in inspection, control and planning into the Water & Land Environment Area. Effective water and land resource management (both quality and quantity) relies on good forward planning and delivery based on data, information and professional judgement. It is essential that economic growth in each Member State supports planned sustainable water and land resource protection and utilization. Furthermore, Environment Compliance Assurance Initiative, promoted by the European Commission pose new challenges that need to be investigated, discussed, to find out proposals to fulfill the ambitious IMPEL's further evolution perspective.</p> <p>Since 2015 IMPEL organizes every year the <i>Water & Land Conference</i>, in order to growth and strengthen the networking among its members with exchange of experience to foster development of IMPEL activities in the land and water topics. The 2018 <i>Water & Land Conference</i> has also become an useful initiative to discuss and present solution to cope with new IMPEL's Ambitions.</p> <p><i>A Water & Land Expert Team meeting</i> is organized every year as well.</p> <p>The 2018 <i>Water & Land Conference</i> was held on September 27th and it was organized inside the <i>IMPEL Conference</i> that took in place in Zwolle (The Netherlands) from September 24th to September 28th, while the <i>Water & Land Expert Team meeting</i> took place in Heraklion on October 25th "back to back" with the <i>Water Crimes project workshop</i>.</p>	
<p>Disclaimer</p> <p>This report is the result of a project within the IMPEL network. The content does not necessarily represent the view of the national administrations or the Commission.</p>	

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1. Conference and ET Meeting organization

The Conference aimed at improving understanding of CAP implementation issues from across the EU Member States using in particular the findings of the achieving better compliance in the agricultural sector through networking and partnership working of environmental and agricultural inspectorates project, the Good Practice for Tackling Nitrate Pollution from Farms and Farmsteads project and direct information from MSs. A primary aim and intended outcome of the Conference was building and strengthening the IMPEL network through offering mutual support, training opportunity and exchange of good practice. As every year a *W&L ET meeting* follows the *W&L Conference*; the 2018 *W&L ET meeting* was not “back to back” with the Conference (as previous years) but back to back with the *Water Crimes project workshop*, about a month after the Conference.

The *W&L Conference* and the *W&L ET meeting* first Announcement was officially launched on May 10th (in attach), while the call for Participation, call for Abstracts was officially launched on June 1st (in attach).

The project team group was composed by:

- project manager: Giuseppe Sgorbati
- project members: Lorenzo Bonardi, Paul Hickey, Barrie Howe, Thomas Ormund, Geneve Farabegoli, Francesco Andreotti, Marco Falconi, Paolo Giandon, Fabio Carella.

After receiving abstracts and contributions, the program of the Conference was drawn up (in attach).

2. The 2018 Water & Land Conference and ET meeting

The Conference was held in Zwolle (NL) on September 27th.

In the opening addresses, Miroslav Angelov (EU Commission, DG Environment) gave an overview about the Commission Action Plan on Environmental Compliance and Governance, while Giuseppe Sgorbati (Water & Land Expert Team leader) gave an overview about IMPEL ambitions matching with the Conference topics.

The presentations given during the Conference are in attach (12 documents); they can also be downloaded from the following webpage:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fdlrv23xf2oa80l/W%26L%20IMPEL%20Conference%202018.zip?dl=0>

After the Conference, a “back to back” pre-expert team meeting was held in Zwolle on September 28th; the ET meeting was held on October 25th in Heraklion and discussed mainly the list of the 2019 projects and the Water and Land Candidacies for the Board elections (the report is in attach).

Annexes

- 1- Conference and Expert Team first Announcement (1 page)
- 2- Conference call for Participation, call for Abstracts (4 pages)
- 3- Conference program (2 pages)
- 4- Expert Team meeting report (4 pages)
- 5- Speakers' presentations given during the Conference (12 documents, for a total amount of 256 pages)