



08/09/2020

Water pollution - EU rules on urban wastewater treatment (update)

BIBM feedback

BIBM, the Federation of the European Precast Concrete Industry, welcomes the revision of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (UWWTD), its possible integration with the Sewage Sludge Directive and its objective of improving existing EU legislation and making it fit for any future challenges. We need more ambitious approach for stormwater treatment, untreated surface runoff and local infiltration solutions, which is essential for future circular wastewater management. We should also take into account a huge potential of appropriately treated wastewater and find different ways to reuse it. This is particularly important in times of changing rainfall patterns, severe droughts and water shortages. The UWWTD should promote circular economy for water by helping remove obstacles to enable widespread reuse of urban water as an alternative water supply for agricultural, municipal and industrial purposes.

Water is and will be a very important resource, to be sustainably managed as from today. Especially in cities. Precast concrete is an excellent and sustainable material for containment, whether this is for water storage, domestic rainwater or grey water collection. Concrete pipeline systems play a key role in taking sewerage flows for treatment. Using rigid pipes guarantees no deformation and therefore no leakage and centuries of performance.

A parallel system separating rainwater from wastewater can easily be installed using precast concrete elements in order to use the former for industrial and agricultural applications. Systems composed of permeable paving and pipes allow to deal with intensive rain and floodings. In case of extreme dry weather and lack of water, precast tanks and pipes can store the excessive water precedently accumulated for such harsh periods.

Permeable paving systems, soakaways and attenuation tanks are used in sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS). These systems help prevent rapid run-off of rainwater from roads and pavements in urban areas by allowing water to permeate quickly and naturally. All precast paving allows some permeability; in contrast hard surfaces with no joints are a problem because rainfall cannot drain sufficiently quickly and the water builds up, causing localised flooding - which is inconvenient, damaging and potentially dangerous.

Secretariat: Rue d'Arlon 55 B-1040

T : +32 2 340 18 28

info@bIBM.eu