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SwissCore

Contact Office for European Research
Innovation and Education

Mission of Switzerland to the European Union

Swiss Science Briefing,
Swiss association celebration
and prototype showcase



Eyes on Water: Space, Science and European Resilience

Science for Diplomacy

19 May 2026

Mission of Switzerland to the EU
Place du Luxembourg 1, 1050 Brussels

Image: Floating LéXPLORE lake laboratory - © Jenny Maner, Eawag

Event Summary



Water is emerging as one of the most strategic resources of the 21st century and a powerful entry point to science diplomacy. About one third of the European population faces water stress each year, a paradox of intensified floods across the continent alongside growing pressure on water availability. Ensuring water availability and quality require advanced technologies, robust infrastructures, and international research cooperation. In this context, the EU has made water a key priority through its [European Water Resilience Strategy](#).

The EU Water Resilience Strategy is backed by concrete research and innovation commitments. Horizon Europe is a central programme for scaling up water technologies, closing knowledge gaps and strengthening research collaboration. The strategy is consistent with the European Commission's planned [Council Recommendation on Science Diplomacy](#), which aims to reinforce Europe's position as a global science and technology actor and to advance the sustainable management of global public goods such as water.

The Swiss Science Briefing aims to show how cutting-edge research and international collaboration advance our understanding and strengthen resilience around water as a strategic resource. This will be done together with [Eawag](#), a world leading institute for aquatic research and technology within the Swiss ETH Domain, and European partners. Eawag is known for its interdisciplinary approach and its role in bridging science and practice. It contributes to European initiatives such as [PARC](#) and [SOS-Water](#), collaborates with the [European Space Agency](#) (ESA) and engages in international research and policy networks. It advances emerging approaches through initiatives such as the [Climate Solutions Hub](#) as well as the use of novel technologies to generate data and insights for sustainable water management and international cooperation. ESA will illustrate its activities related to water, while the European Commission will outline key instruments, programmes and future directions. [Wetsus](#), the European centre of excellence for sustainable water technology, will show how breakthrough innovation and strategic cooperation can contribute to solve global water resilience. The [National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics](#), will provide on behalf of the [EU Science Diplomacy Alliance](#), an applied science-diplomacy perspective, focusing on water and science diplomacy.

Event Agenda



From 15:00

Registration

15:30 – 15:45

Welcome and introduction

Laurin Reding, Head of Office, SwissCore

Sarah Bühler, Senior Research Advisor/Deputy Head of Office, SwissCore

Swiss contributions to research, innovation and science diplomacy

Thomas Meier, Head of Sectoral Policies, Transport, Climate and Environment, Mission of Switzerland to the EU

15:45 – 16:30

Keynotes on critical water technologies for Europe

Science and technology for ecological insight and international water cooperation

Christian Stamm, Deputy Director, Eawag

From space to water: Earth observation for sustainable water management

Marc Paganini, Technical Officer, Directorate of Earth Observation Programmes, European Space Agency

Water at the heart of Europe's strategic endeavours

Rolf-Jan Hoeve, Head of Sector Oceans, Seas and Waters, European Commission (DG RTD)

Event Agenda



16:30 – 17:15

Panel on the interplay of water, tech and diplomacy

Christian Stamm, Deputy Director, Eawag

Pieter de Jong, EU Representative, Wetsus

Liliana Pasecinic, Deputy Head of Unit, Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Mounir Ghribi, Director of International Cooperation and Research Promotion (ICAP), National Institute of Oceanography and Applied Geophysics, EU Science Diplomacy Alliance

Moderation:

Jana Segmehl, Scientific and Strategic Officer of the Directorate, Eawag

17:15 – 17:30

Closing reflections and outlook on European science diplomacy for global water futures

Dr. Jan Marco Müller, Team Leader, Global Approach, Multilateral Dialogue, and Science Diplomacy, European Commission (DG RTD)

17:30 – 19:30

Spring Apéro

Celebration of Swiss association to Horizon Europe and other EU programmes and prototype showcase

With speakers from:



SwissCore

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