

PRESS RELEASE



FENAREG assumes EUWMA's Presidency 2015/2016

FENAREG, the Portuguese National Federation of Irrigators, assumed EUWMA's Presidency 2015/2016. The ceremony took place in Lisbon, during the annual meeting of EUWMA - European Union of Water Management Associations, which took place this year in Portugal, on September 7th and 8th.

EUWMA is a top organization that represents water management organizations from nine European Union member states: Belgium, Italy, Hungary, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

The meeting's main topic this year was the Efficient Water Use in Irrigation with a workshop which included speakers Francisco Gomes da Silva, Professor of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in the School of Agronomy of the University of Lisbon and former Secretary of State for Rural Development in the years 2013 and 2014, Teresa Ferreira Professor of Ecology and Water Ecosystem Management in the School of Agronomy of the University of Lisbon and Juan Valero de Palma General Secretary of the Spanish Federation of Irrigators Communities.

Highlighting the importance of irrigation to the competitiveness of Portuguese agriculture, the group visited the irrigation area of *Lezíria Grande*, where more than 10.000 hectares of irrigated area is developed, with highly productive land, using the most advanced irrigation technology combined with technical and human resources required for sustainable agriculture. The visit was completed with EVOA space, integrated in *Companhia das Lezírias*, a birdwatching and conservation area, demonstrating the close link between biodiversity and irrigated areas.

The programme also included the EIC - Euro-Mediterranean Irrigators Community, an international organization of which FENAREG is also a member.

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Notes for Editors – *The Portuguese Federation of Irrigation Associations was founded in 2005 and aims to promote the development of the irrigation sector providing knowledge and management tools to its associates. FENAREG represents the irrigation water sector in the national and international institutions concerned with water resources management for irrigation. Currently consists of 28 members, with a total irrigation area of 134,750 ha, representing 76% of the public collective irrigation and 20% of the national irrigation area.*

www.fenareg.pt