

Aquafed - another pressure group for private water

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1. Aquafed: a new lobby group for private water

"AquaFed® will be the voice of the private water industry vis-à-vis international organisations." With an office at the Rond Point Schuman, in the heart of the EU quarter in Brussels, the International Federation of Private Water Operators (AquaFed) has chosen a very prestigious address. This is the most expensive office location in Brussels, but located straight opposite of the European Commission headquarters it is ideal for lobbying purposes. AquaFed's second office is on avenue Hoche in the centre of Paris. The locations of the two AquaFed offices reflect two key features of this new corporate lobby group, launched in October 2005. Firstly, AquaFed's efforts "to promote private sector participation in water and wastewater management" will be heavily focused on European Union decision-making. Secondly, AquaFed has strong French roots due to its close connections to the French water multinational Suez. AquaFed's president is Gerard Payen, the former CEO and chairman of the Ondeo Group, Suez' water division ; and Jack Moss, Senior Water Advisor at Suez, represents AquaFed at international events.

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