

The fourteenth edition of the National Environmental Congress focuses on ecological transition and sustainability

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## Canal de Isabel II shares its experience in sustainable water management at Conama 2018

- Experts from the public entity presented their developments with regard to climate change, circular economy and raising awareness

**28NOV18** – Canal de Isabel II, as part of its commitment to sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, took part in the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Environmental Congress (Conama), with various technical sessions in which it shared its experience in terms of adapting to climate change, circular economy innovation and raising awareness among the population regarding the efficient use and management of water.

The Conama 2018 programme in this edition focuses on nine core issues: Energy, efficiency and climate change; Mobility; Urban renovation; Rural development, Biodiversity; Water; Waste; Environmental quality and Economy and society.

Three colleagues represented Canal – Antonio Lastra, Miguel Ángel Gálvez and María del Pilar Gómez– all of whom took part in various technical sessions held on 27 and 28 December.

As in so many other areas, climate change is also changing the water sector and therefore, adaptation plays a key role. Antonio Lastra, network innovation coordinator, intervened in this respect in the seminar forming part of the technical session *Water and adaptation to climate change*.

Canal de Isabel II's intervention began on Tuesday 27, with Antonio Lastra, from the R&D+I office, taking part in the debate '*Applying climate forecasts to planning and water management*', as part of the technical session, *Water and adaptation to climate change*. Lastra explained how Canal de Isabel II is fully aware of the potential scenarios of lack of water when it comes to making future water consumption and demand forecasts.

On 28 November, Miguel Ángel Gálvez, deputy director of Water Treatment and the Environment, took part in the work session on water, circular economy and innovation projects related to this subject. Therefore, on the one hand, Gálvez discussed, together with other experts, the challenges for the development of the circular economy in the water sector and, on the other, he outlined Canal's experience in terms of implementing

facilities for powering vehicles with biogas generated in the wastewater treatment plants in the Community of Madrid.

Lastly, Pilar Gómez, Head of the Department of Image and Public Relations, intervened in the technical session *Water and communication. How to tempt citizens to get them to collaborate?* on innovation and audio-visual communication campaigns in the water sector. She explained how the communication campaign, *Join the water challenge* has served as a vehicle to raise awareness among the public regarding issues such as saving water, caring for the environment or the circular economy.

The fourteenth edition of the Conama event, organised by the Conama Foundation and held every two years, was held in the Palacio Municipal de Congresos de Madrid from the 26 to 29 November. This edition's motto is *Rumbo 20.30* and it is designed to launch a message to society regarding the need to speed up the transition to sustainability. The aim of Conama 2018 is to serve as an incentive for Spain to achieve the targets established by the United Nations 2030 Agenda and the EU objectives for 2020, 2030 and 2050.

One of the main objectives of Conama is to generate alliances between governments, the private sector and civil society, in order to contribute to the creation of shared knowledge and solutions for the environmental challenges of today and of the future: this falls within the Sustainable Development Goal number 17 established by the United Nations in 2015.

Canal de Isabel II is the company in charge of the management of the integral water cycle in the Community of Madrid and in its shareholder structure, the public entity Canal de Isabel II is represented with 82.4% of the shares and 111 town councils with 17.6%, including the City Council of Madrid with 10% of the shares. The public entity was founded over 165 years ago to supply the city of Madrid with water. It employs more than 2500 people working daily to provide a service to more than 6 million people in the region.

It is an innovative company, a leader in its sector, and internationally recognised for its management of the integrated water cycle.

It operates 13 reservoirs; 78 spring tapplings; 14 drinking water treatment plants; 17,556 kilometres of conveyance and distribution channels; 131 pumping stations for drinking water and 133 for waste water; 14,956 kilometres of sewage networks; 65 storm tanks; 877 kilometres of sewers and outfalls; 157 waste water treatment stations; and 588 kilometres of reclaimed water channels.