- EMWIS-
EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM
ON KNOW-HOW IN THE WATER SECTOR
Amman meeting of the Working Group, 8 - 9 April 1997

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion to the Euro-Mediterranean conference of Marseilles (November 1996), the working group met in Amman on the 8th and 9th of April, 1997.

The countries represented were: Algeria, Cyprus, Spain, France, Italy, Jordan, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, as well as the European Commission.

The United Kingdom has apologised for not coming.

Germany delegated an observer.

In conclusion of this meeting, the working group stated that the implementation of a Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the water sector (EMWIS), is technically possible and it committed itself to propose an action plan for the creation of this system during the water directors' meeting of the 27 countries in Autumn 97.

In order to assure the best conditions for this Directors' meeting, whose principle was retained during the Marseilles' Conference, the present Memorandum of Understanding was unanimously adopted.

This system, as agreed in Marseilles, will contribute to the realisation and setting up of the Mediterranean Water Network.

1. Organisation / structure

The network must be organised around national focal points respectively nominated by each country.

The focal points will be committed to organise the collection and validation of the information originating from all relevant organisations in their respective countries.

In order to assure the prompt and efficient implementation of the system and considering the proposals of the experts present in Amman, the working group has proposed that the national focal points should be approached before the Directors' meeting.

The working group recognised the necessity for an international co-ordination secretariat of EMWIS, whose functions and operating mode and specifications will be defined according to the needs identified by the thematic groups.

The working programme of the international secretariat will be defined by the representatives of the national focal points.

2. Topic distribution

The working group decided to define the specifications of the system according to thematic thoughts on four fields for which groups of partner countries proposed their driving.

The list of themes and the responsible countries are presented in the following table:

THEMES	Partners in thematic groups[1]
1- Training / research and development	Cyprus, Italy[2], Malta
2- Documentation	France[2], Jordan, Morocco (to be confirmed), Palestinian Authority
3- Institutions	Algeria, Cyprus, Morocco, Spain[2]

4- Data Administration	Malta, United Kingdom[2] (to be confirmed), Palestinian Authority

[1] *Jordan expressed the wish to be associated, as observer, to all of the other thematic groups.*
[2] *Theme driver.*

All members of the working group will be informed of the reflections of thematic groups in which they have to contribute to the work.
The directing of "data administration theme" will be proposed to the United Kingdom. Should their reply be negative, a solution shall be negotiated between France and Spain.
For each theme, the thematic groups will choose two or three fields among the following:

- Drinking water / municipal water;
- Industrial water;
- Irrigation;
- Resources management;
- Economy.

Within the framework of the decisions taken during the Marseilles' conference about the functions of the system, each thematic group will be in charge, in close relationship with the International Office of Water, and for all of the 27 countries, of:

- Identifying the poles of interest of the different users regarding useful information;
- Identifying the operators in possession of the information, the implementation means and he used technologies;
- Examining the available information (existing databases, important events, on-going programs …);
- Assessing the comparability of information and information systems, and propose, if necessary, harmonisation actions to be carried out;
- Considering scenarios for operation (collection, management and processing of information, dissemination) to be implemented and identifying the required technical means, and the methods to be used;
- Estimating the corresponding costs (investment and operation) of the proposals and the advisable organisation methods;
- Developing, whenever possible, a model of presentation for the directors' meeting.

Within the framework of this study, the thematic groups have to envisage development possibilities and objectives on the short, medium, and long term.
Parallel to that, the working group decided to mandate Mr. Berera, expert in computers and communication networks, to carry out the feasibility study regarding issues of computer networks and connections. This study will consist in identifying the existing systems and proposing recommendations, noticeably to reinforce the thematic thoughts, regarding the architecture to be adopted for the system.

3. Work plan

The thematic groups and the network expert will submit their final reports to the International Office of Water on 15th of September 1997, on the latest.
An informal co-ordination meeting of the thematic work drivers with the network expert will take place at the end of June 1997 and will be organised by the secretariat of the working group.
A second meeting of EMWIS working group will be held in the first week of October 1997 to validate the proposals to be submitted at the directors' meeting. The venue of this meeting will be Valencia (Spain), on the occasion of the meeting of the International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO), at the invitation of the Spanish Delegation. The members of the

working group who are not INBO members, will be invited to participate in INBO work as observers.

The working group accepted Italy's proposal to host and organise the directors' meeting on the 25th and 26th of November, 1997.

These proposals symbolise the will of all participants to actively contribute to the development of the system.

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