

DATE:	6 November 2006 18h00 - 20h00
PLACE:	Athens – Ionic Center
SUBJECT:	EMWIS STEERING COMMITTEE Meeting n°10 AGENDA AND PREPARATORY NOTES
VERSION	2006-10-26
PARTICIPANTS (invited) :	EMWIS Steering Committee members (i.e. Water Directors from Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Turkey) Mr Pascal BERTEAUD – President Mr Walter MAZZITTI – General Secretary European commission, DG Env Manager of the Technical Unit Representatives from the organizations of the Technical Unit (CEDEX, OIEau, SOGESID)

AGENDA	<ol style="list-style-type: none">I. Discussion on 2007-2010 financingII. Working groups organisations for 2007-2010 around the themes defined at the last meeting
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Documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conclusions of the last Steering Committee meeting, May 2006, Nice2. Organisation of working groups for 2007-2010 and country participation
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1. Financing 2007-2010

The funding of the activities planned for 2007-2010 proposed during the Euromed conference of water directors in November 2005 is based on the continuity of the current system and structure:

- Regional activities coordinated by the EMWIS Technical Unit activities, with the support of France, Italy and Spain and the European Union,
- Strengthening of national water information systems for interested partner countries, with the bilateral co-financing support from the European Commission

As indicated during the last meeting of the Steering Committee in May 2006, the suggestion of the Europe Aid service of the European Commission is based on a service contract (i.e. tender procedure) rather than a grant (as it has been done since now). The Water Directors of the Partnership strongly mobilised themselves to inform the Commission on their will to continue the actions in progress and to work on priority topics in order to lead to concrete results in their country. Cyprus, Israel, Lebanon, Morocco, Turkey and Tunisia thus formulated their needs at the Commission.

The President transmitted an official request for financing to the qualified service of the Commission (Europe Aid) on the basis of the recommendations of Rome conference (Nov. 2005), the support letters from the directors, the assessment of the EMWIS activities, a detailed program of activities 2007-2010 and the related budget.

The administrative procedures of the Commission do not make it possible to consider a call for tenders or a call for projects covering the EMWIS activities before mid-2007 and thus in the best situation a financing at the end of 2007 or beginning of 2008.

In parallel, a full evaluation of EMWIS activities and results obtained is necessary for the negotiating procedure with the Commission. This evaluation envisaged during the summer 2006 underwent an administrative delay. It will be held in November and December 2006. The final evaluation report will be available in January 2007. During this evaluation, 4 National Focal points (countries chosen by the European Commission: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia), the Technical Unit and the President of the EMWIS Steering Committee will be interviewed.

For 2007, a one year extension (Dec'2006-Nov'2007) of the current contract with the European Commission is under signature to allow the following operation:

- organisation of a Steering Committee meeting and a NFP coordination seminar
- complementing the implementation of local services and web content translation by EMWIS NFP
- maintaining the EMWIS websites and monthly e-news flash, including the dissemination of MEDA-Water results
- complementary feasibility studies with voluntary countries on the regional water observation mechanism



2. Working groups for 2007-2010

The EMWIS orientations for the period 2007-2010, validated at the last Steering Committee meeting (May 2006, Nice) are based on:

- 3 horizontal priorities:
 - maintaining EMWIS national and international websites,
 - preparing a regional water observation mechanism
 - organising and supporting the Euro-Med Water Directors Forum
- 5 vertical priorities to undertake activities for the transfer of know-how **leading to tangible results** in the Mediterranean Partners Countries (MPCs):
 - **National Water Information Systems** (NWISs)
 - **Participative approaches** in Integrated Water Resources Management
 - Prevention and risk management related to the extreme phenomena (in particular the **water scarcity and floods**)
 - Non conventional water resources with two sub-topics: the **desalination** and the **re-use of waste water**
 - The local management of sanitation services and the prevention of **domestic pollution**

To prepare these working groups, the EMWIS Technical Unit and the National Focal Points have outlined the first operative rules as well as the potential role and leadership of countries in the different working groups.

The Steering Committee members have now to validate the membership of their countries as well as the outlined rules. (see document in annex).

