

**Discussion document on
the Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative Process**

Detailed Strategy & 2005 work programme

Authors : COM (DGENV) – *18 November 2004*

SUMMARY

Since the last Water Directors meeting in June 2004, where the WFD/EUWI Joint Process was presented for the first time, workshops and meetings were held to design more deeply what could be, in 2005, the main activities of the JP.

The Mediterranean area is the first place where the JP will be developed. The paper proposes a detailed strategy for this region and first ideas for EECCA and the Africa zones.

In the Mediterranean JP, interactions between EU and non EU experts are foreseen, and in this context, Pilot River Basins would play an important role. It is proposed to work on three specific issues and, for at least two of them, in link with the Groundwater and the Water Scarcity Working groups of the CIS.

OUTCOMES OF THE MEETING

1. General agreement on priorities: Mediterranean, EECCA and potentially Africa;
2. General agreement on the Mediterranean implementation plan in 2005 which includes a high level of interaction with the CIS (through the Groundwater Working group and Water Scarcity Drafting group)
3. Principle agreement on Joint meetings between EU and non-EU Water Directors (to be organised probably with EECCA Water Directors)

1. BACKGROUND

Dublin, 2004

The WFD/EUWI Joint Process was presented during the Dublin Meeting on 23 June 2004¹. It was welcomed by the Water Directors, and it was proposed that a more detailed proposal would be prepared by December, including the outputs of 2 technical meetings to be held in Sweden in August and in Italy in September.

Summary:

Dublin, June 2004: the WD welcomed a proposal to develop a WFD/EUWI Joint Process

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE WFD/EUWI Joint Process

EU Member States are leading the EU Water Initiative but also implementing the WFD. The Joint process is a tool for combining EU and non-EU expertise and means under the umbrella of the EUWI to facilitate the implementation of sound water policies.

- Using, where appropriate, the policy principles and the tools already developed in the EU could **facilitate the development of sound water management practices in non-EU countries** which is a prerequisite for sustainable drinking water and sanitation projects, and therefore, a contribution to the achievement of the MDGs.
- On the other hand, using, where appropriate, non EU experiences in water management could **facilitate the implementation of the WFD** in EU countries by proposing -on specific issues -new solutions or other ways of working.

Generally, by sharing experiences, water managers can be aware of existing methodologies and instruments which can facilitate the implementation of their own water policy.

The process of exchange, cross fertilization between experts and decision-makers in the field of water management could be profitable for EU and non-EU communities:

- Firstly, for those who have to share same water basins. In those areas, sharing practices is the basis for developing further cooperation in order to be able to produce one single river basin management plan for each shared river basin. This will be the case in the EECCA and in the Mediterranean (Southeastern Europe) regions.
- Secondly, for those who share the same ecoregion, where the water characteristics are similar (climate, water uses profiles, etc.). Here, comparing water management approaches, identifying common best practices for addressing regional specific challenges could benefit to all in the same area.
- At last, for those aiming at implementing sustainable water management, wherever they are. The EU water policy and related experiences could inspire others in terms of approach and methodologies. According to the geographical, political, social and economical context, some particular pieces of EU water policy would not be relevant, but the main principles, based on IWRM, could be easily used as a basis.

Summary:

*1/ Facilitate the implementation of sound water policies in non-EU countries
2/ Facilitate the implementation of the WFD*

¹ Discussion document on the Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative Process, COM (DGENV)

1. Preparatory phase: Main outcomes

1.1. *Stockholm, August 2004*

The EUWI Multistakeholder Forum, held yearly in Stockholm, includes specific sessions. One of them was dedicated to the links between the WFD and the EUWI², see Annex 1. Two topics were on the agenda: public participation and economic costs and benefits.

The objectives of this session were to (i) share experiences between EU and non EU water managers and experts from river basin organisations, governments or NGOs by presenting various case studies, (ii) identify the demand for developing the JP and (iii) initiate a strategy.

The idea of creating synergies between WFD implementation and EUWI was welcomed by the participants, in particular those from partner countries³. It was proposed that the most relevant principles, tools, methodology and lessons learned from implementation to date of the WFD of interest to EUWI partners be identified, and that these be used and even adapted in the EUWI context; wherever a need is expressed by EU partners that can appropriately be addressed with these instruments. It was advised to develop this joint process on a regional basis, taking into account the characteristics of each region and the particular links with the WFD. A virtual forum on the EUWI website will be set up to allow for further discussions on the basis of the Stockholm session.

1.2. *Brindisi, September 2004*

The first regional approach has started with the Mediterranean component.

The workshops on Mediterranean Pilot River Basins and the Med EUWI component, held in Brindisi on 22-23 September 2004, were aimed at (i) outlining a process for sharing practices and experiences and (ii) co-ordinating on-going and future IWRM related activities in the region in the framework of the Med component of the EUWI, led by Greece, see Annex 2.

A Med Joint Process was drawn up with the Med Pilot River Basins and non EU partners. During the Med EUWI session, held back-to-back, the specific objectives of the Med EUWI Activity Plan related to IWRM activities were presented and synergies between the Med JP and on-going projects or planned actions were discussed. A draft Road Map for IWRM activities in the region was proposed.

Summary:

Stockholm, August 2004: JP welcomed by partners; proposal to develop it at the regional level

Brindisi, September 2004: a Med JP outlined; the Med JP integrated in the Med EUWI Activity Plan under IWRM activities in synergies with other activities

² “Integrated Water Resources Management: How to use the benefits of the EU experience in implementing the Water Framework Directive for the EUWI”

³ Were present representatives from all the regional components and, on the EU side, D, F, GR, SW, UK ...

2. GENERAL STRATEGY

The first proposals for a strategy were mainly based on geographical considerations (4 EUWI regional components) and key actors targeted (technical and political levels).

On these basis, and taken into account the outcomes of the first technical steps of the process, it is proposed to adopt the following strategy in 2005.

- Development and implementation of the Med Joint Process as proposed in Brindisi, supported by a political action;
- Design and implementation of the JP in the EECCA region;
- Initiation of the JP in Africa, in the framework of the IWRM Working Group, as a complementary activity.

The JP is coordinated through the EUWI and WFD structures: for the EUWI, within the regional components, through the IWRM Working Groups' leaders and for the WFD by the Water Directors.

2.1. *Mediterranean Joint Process*

The Med Joint Process encourages the establishment of a network of water experts, volunteers for sharing their own difficulties and ready to get experiences from other basins or countries. To achieve this objective, the Med Joint Process aims at developing a mechanism to ensure the flow of information and knowledge between water managers / experts from both sides of the Mediterranean.

The role that Med Pilot River Basins⁴ could play is of particular interest in this framework. They cover a broad scope of problems frequently encountered in the North Mediterranean countries. But similar situations are encountered also in the Southern and Eastern border of the Mediterranean Sea, exacerbated by additional factors such as intensive and increasing demand for irrigation purposes, faster growing population and improvement of standard of living.

The experience gained by the Med PRB, particularly on the development of River Basin Management Plan could be valuable for other basins in the area. On the other side, specific know-how already developed by non-EU countries facing the same challenges could bring interesting solutions for EU basins and thus could facilitate the implementation of the WFD.

The Med PRB could act as interface to transfer specific knowledge get in the context of the CIS, and bring back to the CIS specific experience gained in the Mediterranean context.

In 2005, it is proposed to work on 3 specific issues: water scarcity, groundwater management and linking rural development and agriculture with water management.

The recommendations that would be prepared could be presented to the Mediterranean Water Directors in the framework of the EuroMed water director Forum⁵. This could be mobilised and serves as political platform to support the Med Joint Process.

In the Balkan region, no specific activities are foreseen. Links with on-going projects and programmes, (including the ICPDR programme⁶ and those led by Italy), should be identified and promoted.

⁴ Cecina (IT), Jucar (SP), Pinios (GR), Tevere (IT)

⁵ Including Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco but not the Balkan countries.

⁶ ICPDR includes the following non EU countries: Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia Montenegro, Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine, Moldova (EECCA countries)

2.2. EECCA Joint Process

In the EECCA region, the JP process has to be outlined and discussed. The activity programme will be drawn up in February 2005 during the EECCA next WG meeting. Then, during 2005, activities will be implemented. The process will be driven by the EECCA Working group. Collaboration with UNECE will be required and interfaces with the UNECE work programme will be developed.

Political mobilisation of EECCA Water Directors could be also planned and meeting with EU WD could be arranged.

The main features of the JP will be based on geographical criteria:

- Neighbour countries, sharing river basins with EU MS: mainly Russia, Belarus and Ukraine sharing the Narva, Daugava, Neunas and Vistula rivers with ES, LA, LI and PO;
- Eastern countries of Central Asia.

Ukraine and Moldova are part of the ICPDR, and as such, can benefit from the work undertaken for implementing the WFD in this river basin.

The Eastern Europe countries will have to establish joint river basin management plans with EU countries with which they are sharing the rivers.

A conference, co-organised by Poland, is already planned for these countries, aiming at explaining the basis of transboundary cooperation for water management issues.

2.3. Africa Joint Process

Although a completely different context, some interest for European activities were expressed by African partners during several meetings⁷ and requests for getting the text of the WFD or some specific guidance documents were made.

As a capacity building dimension is planned in the Work programme of the African IWRM WG, it could be worthwhile to identify if joint activities would be desirable or not.

Particularly on transboundary issues, the European experience e.g. the Danube could be profitable.

2005 will be dedicated to initiate, where appropriate, an African JP.

Summary:

Regional level of action:

Med: development and implementation of the regional JP, based on the production of specific recommendations for 3 particular issues

EECCA: design and implementation of the regional JP, with emphasis on the shared river basins in the Baltic area

Africa: initiation of the regional JP if requested

⁷ The last one was in Dakar, Senegal, 3 – 6 November 2004, where the African Network of River Basin Organisation and the International Network of transboundary RBO acknowledged the WFD as an example of good practise to use and adapt according to the context.

3. 2005 WORK PROGRAMME

A detailed activity programme is proposed for the Mediterranean JP. It is extracted from the global document available in Annex 3.

3.1. Mediterranean

It is suggested to have 3 Working groups in charge of producing recommendations to be included in the 2005-2006 CIS documents on Groundwater and water Scarcity. The detailed activity sheets corresponding to these groups are presented in Annex 4.

The main features of their **mandate** are the following:

- Create an electronic forum for networking;
- Draft a position paper / recommendations;
- Organise further exchanges of knowledge;

Regarding the Working Group on Rural Development and agriculture, the functioning will be ensured by JRC and led by Portugal. An objective in the WG mandate was added as JRC would like to be involved in pilot actions on the ground: the fourth objective is 'Set up test cases for applied research'.

Membership of the Working groups is the following:

PRBs project coordinators, non-EU RBO representatives, governmental representatives, stakeholders (NGOs, researchers,...)

The MedJP will be coordinated by Greece, as leader of the MedEUWI and the Commission, responsible for the CIS.

3.2. Synergies with other programmes

In addition existing /planned activities could be incorporated in this work programme as far as they share the same objectives.

Synergies are already identified with other organisations which are committed in the development of IWRM approach in the Med area. These linkages are described in the Med JP Rod Map under preparation.

3.3. Financial and human resources

The contribution of Member states in the JP is provided through the leadership of the EUWI components or CIS working groups, or as supporter of specific project or programme.

Participation of non-EU partners (water experts, governmental representatives, NGOs representatives,...) can be partly covered by the Commission (DGENV & JRC).

Regarding the Med JP, contribution of some Med organisations in the process is already secured: EMWIS, as focal point for general information dissemination and MENBO (tbc) as central operator for mobilising Med River Basins organisations and organising an annual Med JP workshop.

Complementary resources to make the regional Joint Processes operational have to be further identified. But connecting the JP with existing activities/programmes could alleviate the financial burden needed for its functioning.

The main complementary financial resources could come from:

- Specific EU programmes: RTD (on-going projects, or future Specific support action to be prepared in 2005...), MEDA Water Programme, LIFE-Third countries, ENP;...
- Other programmes or activities.

At longer term, new EU financial instruments could be mobilised (in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy or the Enlargement process).

Summary:

Med JP:

3 working groups:

- *Water Scarcity, linked with the EU drafting group; led by France and supported by the COM (DGENV)*
- *Groundwater Management, linked with EU Groundwater WG; led by Med PRB (Greece) and supported by the COM (DGENV)*

The first 2 ones are populated with EU PRB and non EU partners (RBO and governments representatives); they both will provide a Med contribution in the final documents

- *Linking rural development and Agriculture with water management, driven by JRC and led by Portugal*

Synergies with complementary activities to be identified

Financial and human means provided by MS leaders of the WG, the COM, JRC and further developed through research projects or regional instruments.

Annex 1

MINUTES OF THE SESSION 1 OF THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER FORUM, *Stockholm 2004*



Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) - Specific sessions

Session 1:

“Integrated Water Resource Management: How to use the benefits of the EU experience in implementing the Water Framework Directive for the EUWI?”

16 August 2004, Stockholm

DRAFT MINUTES

Introduction

The specific session focused on the linkages between the EU Water Initiative and the EU experience in water policy was held in the margins of the EUWI Multistakeholder Forum. This session constitutes the opportunity of gathering EUWI partners, involved in development activities and water experts to present some European and non-European experiences in IWRM, thus identifying similarities in problems, circumstances, possibilities and potential solutions.

The objectives of this meeting were to:

- Start a dialogue between water managers and water practitioners from EU and non EU countries;
- Contribute to the preparation of a strategy to develop synergies between EUWI and the EU experience in water policy, in particular with the Water Framework Directive (WFD), by identifying current needs, activities to be developed in the future and procedures for developing these activities.

As a starting point for exploring synergies, three issues have been chosen because of their importance in water management issues in general and because EU partners have been largely working on them: Integrated River Basin Management, Public Participation and economic issues.

The present note summarises the main elements presented and discussed during the session and the main conclusions. The agenda of the meeting is presented in **Annex 1**; the list of participants is presented in **Annex 2**. The abstracts of the presentations are gathered in **Annex 3**.

General Presentation of the Water Framework Directive

Sylvie Detoc, European Commission, presented the Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative Process agreed by the EU Water Directors in Dublin, in June 2004. The objective is to find synergies between the actions developed for the implementation of the

WFD and the activities undertaken in the 4 regional components of the EUWI where IWRM working groups are set up.

The EUWI provides the umbrella under which supporting activities related to the WFD can be undertaken, especially in the EU's new neighbours to the South and the East, where mutual interests are obvious. Farther on, the use of EU Member States' water management expertise could contribute to the development of the EUWI's IWRM components based on the best practices.

Marta Moren, European Commission introduced the WFD. The principles, timetable and the Pilot River Basins exercise were presented. Integration of water in other policies was highlighted.

This concept of integration was developed by Dagmara Berbalk, Germany, who emphasised the need for cooperation and dialogue for IWRM. She pointed out the interest of using the EU experience, even if the size of River Basins is smaller in Europe than in Africa. The Petersberg process, led by Germany, was mentioned as one initiative to share experiences and benefits focussing on transboundary cooperation in river basin management.

Alfred Becker, Postdam Institute for Climate and Research, explained the key steps in Integrated River Basin Management Planning, with reference to a case study in Germany in the Spree river basin.

Public Participation

Three examples were presented, one on a small national river basin in United Kingdom, the Ribble, another on the greatest European transboundary river basin in Europe, the Danube and at last, the Prut River, in Moldova. These presentations gave an outlook of the different means implemented and the tools developed for Public Participation in various contexts.

Economic costs and benefits

Economic issues were presented according to three different points of view. The current implementation of the economic analysis required by the WFD was presented by France. The example of the Senegal river illustrated in a qualitative way the benefits of an integrated water management policy between 4 African countries sharing the same river basin. Then WWF gave quantitative elements of economic value for different functions and types of wetlands across different regions.

General Conclusions

The discussions raised after the different presentations between participants and speakers illustrated that a dialogue had started and the topics presented were of interest for the attendance.

The idea of creating synergies between the WFD implementation work and EUWI was welcomed by the participants, especially from partner regions. It was felt that targeted exchanges of good practices and experiences would be greatly beneficial to EUWI partners and should therefore be developed and fostered in the future. It was therefore proposed that the relevant principles, tools, methodology and lessons learned from the implementation to date of interest to EUWI partners, to be identified by EUWI partners, be used, and even adapted to the EUWI context where appropriate

The needs, boundaries, interest and development of water management issues differ from one region to the other. As a consequence, the joint approach has to be developed on a regional basis.

Greece was particularly interested in further developing the process in the Mediterranean.

Sweden expressed its support to the joint process but proposed to begin with a few number of topics to avoid extra burden for the EU Member States.

The issues to be addressed will depend on the region to consider. EECCA representatives stressed the interest of using the EUWI to transfer the knowledge and experience of the EU in the water field. The main themes to develop for this region are: ecosystems, economic instruments, public participation and transboundary issues.

For African representatives, the most important topic to work on is the Water security included water for food and water supply.

Generally, issues to consider as a first approach might be application of economic issues into water management such as pricing policies, public involvement (public education) including training of water managers, ministries and authorities and water availability. Development of capacity building, networking and information would bring common benefits.

To implement these activities, coordination of all existing financial tools will be a crucial step forward. And links with others activities have to be ensured (for example the Conference organised in Hungary in May 2005).

The proposed follow-up is to use, as a starting point, the paper agreed by the EU Water Directors in Dublin, June 2004 and to get comments and feed-backs. The development of the strategy for this Joint Process will be organised thanks to the contribution of all the participants of the session and through the IWRM Working groups of the EUWI regional components.

A virtual Forum on the EUWI website will be set up to allow discussions on the basis of this session.

The regional approach within these synergies WFD/EUWI will start with the Mediterranean component. The meeting to be held in Brindisi, in September 2004⁸ will be the opportunity to fix some specific ideas on issues and methodologies to integrate both interests.

The next steps are:

- Dissemination of the conclusions of the session and the Water Directors Paper, in early September;
- Integration of comments and contributions of the participants of the session;
- Discussion of the updated paper within the EUWI regional IWRM Working groups;
- Preparation of an updated paper by the end of 2004.

Enclosures to this summary:

- Annex 1: Meeting agenda
Annex 2: List of participants
Annex 3: Abstracts of the presentations

⁸ In Brindisi, Italy, 22-24 September 2004 – registration on http://viso.ei.jrc.it/prb_im/index.html

Annex 2

MINUTES OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS



International Workshops

*organized by
the Puglia Regional Environmental Agency (ARPA Puglia)
DG Environment and DG Joint Research Centre
of the European Commission,*

*in collaboration with and support of
the Puglia Region, the Italian Ministry of Environment and
the Italian Agency for Environmental Protection and Technical Services (APAT)*

Ostuni (Brindisi, Italy) , 22-24 September 2004

Workshop Minutes:

1. The Brindisi Workshop, 22-24 September 2004, was organized in collaboration between DG ENV and DG JRC and with support from the Regional Organization for Environment in Puglia (ARPA Puglia), the National Organization for the Environment (APAT) and Italian Ministry of Environment. The event grouped three workshops that were linked in their expected contribution towards a joint initiative under the MED-EUWI related to water and natural resources management in the Mediterranean area.
2. In line with the political commitment of sustainable development, the main objective of the workshops was to initiate a joint process between the WFD and the EUWI for the Mediterranean area, based on the experiences of the existing network of PRBs and some S. Mediterranean basins. Along with the geographic extension of the PRB experience, the workshop aimed also at a thematic extension of PRB related activities. The workshop discussed the feasibility of contributing to integrated management of natural resources at the level of linking management of environmental concerns addressed in Rural Development programmes with those of the planned River Basin Management Plans.
3. After the official welcome by local authorities, Mr. Bidoglio, DG JRC, introduced the event to the audience of about 150 experts. He highlighted the importance of the PRB process and the WFD that offers a possibility for RBMPs to be bridging elements with CAP/RD on harmonizing environmental requirements and to foster further creation of methods and tools for managers to implement integrated strategies. The WI was stressed to be an interface to create a regional process towards these goals. Ms. Moren-Abat, DG ENV, introduced the WFD and its strength as driver for reaching integrated management. New challenges in EU water management with member states being more free to decide on the implementation specifics, make sharing experiences an important key to success. The necessary

structures have to be organized. The WFD/PRD linkage to the WI, with extension of thematic issues related to the Mediterranean, would be a first initiative. The Brindisi workshop was meant as a kick-off to such process.

During the first day the Mediterranean PRB experiences were highlighted. Most of the PRBs have finished with Article 5 and some of them, like e.g. Tevere, are starting to look into the management measures as related to the findings of the Art 5 report. It became very clear that agriculture, mainly through water use by irrigation⁹ and pollution by fertilizers, is the biggest factor influencing water quantity and quality. Although stakeholder processes are on going and active involvement of water users is being organized, no PRB approached the problem from the point of view that also policy instruments could be integrated or harmonized, either at local management or higher level.

Related to the specific Mediterranean situation,

- (i) water scarcity and
- (ii) groundwater management

were identified as issues that needed much more attention.

4. The second day discussed the potential for linking management of environmental concerns as they are addressed in Rural Development Plans or programmes with the management of local water related problems. Mr. Cherlet, DG JRC, introduced the subject by giving an overview of the various policies and identifying mutual benefits from better integration of environmental concerns within the planning tools implemented mainly through the WFD and the CAP/RD¹⁰.

Further presentations highlighted related experiences from projects in the N. and S. Mediterranean. Examples were:

- Efficient linking of soil protection activities in view of better water management resulting in more water availability for agriculture (Tunisia)
- Farmers participation in management projects aiming at changing agricultural practices to prevent water pollution and erosion, with attention to income compensation through alternative cultivation and more efficient irrigation (Turkey)
- Reaching specific management measures in the framework of European, National and local legislations and identification of conflicts of interest between water management and Rural Development (Puglia, Italia)
- Problem of accumulation of pollution loads in water scarce areas resulting from agricultural practices (TempQsim)
- Identification at ministry level of needs for research on solid indicators, models and more reliable information in support of RD decision making; examples of crop changes to non-irrigated cultures with RD income compensations and the use of models for assessing and monitoring implementation of the Agri-Env RD measure on 'leaching reduction of agrochemical to aquifers' (MinAg. Portugal)
- Difficulties met in implementing policies such as CAP/RD or UNCCD NAP at local level (Agri, Italy)
- Presentation of a practical framework for setting up integrated management projects and the new position that science and research should take as active partners in the decision making process at all levels (ICARDA, Syria)

5. Three main key issues were identified as being of relevance to the Mediterranean areas in order to focus further specific discussions:

- Water scarcity management (chair: Thierry Davy)
- Integrated ground water management (chair: Juan Fullano, Giorgio Pineschi)
- Linking Rural Development (agri-env) to water management (chair: Michael Cherlet, Carlos Pais)

⁹ Greece indicated Agriculture water use up to 96% of total; Spain, Júcar basin, indicated irrigation demand as 80% of total, while Cyprus also reached 69% for agricultural demands.

¹⁰ Being the River Basin Management Plans (WFD requirement) and the Rural Development Plans (as planned under the Rural Development being 2nd pillar of the CAP).

Three Working Groups were formed to discuss potential networking and organization of practical steps for further action. The mandate of the groups was:

- Establishing 'rationale'; why addressing this focal area
- What can be done for addressing this focal area
- How to implement this focal area

6. In general for all three working groups it was decided to

- Create an (joint) electronic forum for networking,
- Draft a position paper and
- Organize further exchange of knowledge and
- To set up test cases for applied research.

Lead countries will foster this process and seek further commitments at political level, but the technical work is seen as a bridge to the political level. Each working group chair will draft a report on the discussions and outcomes to be further compiled with the workshops report.

7. Working Group results:

a. Integrated management of groundwater

Why:

Over extraction of groundwater, is a common problem in Mediterranean countries. Extraction for irrigation for agriculture is increasing and problems of salinisation occur especially in coastal areas.

What:

Sharing of experiences between EU and non EU Mediterranean countries to establish a sustainable approach for renewable and non-renewable aquifers.

How:

- Establishing of an electronic forum, starting with the Mediterranean PRBs to be enlarged to the non EU MEDA countries in order to develop a common vision on the problem.
- To prepare the ground for activities under CIS and the MED-EUWI component and to develop collaboration between project in the longer term.

b. Water Scarcity

Why:

- The specific Mediterranean climate is a common characteristic within the whole area, the agriculture in general and irrigation in particular are the biggest water users.
- Although there is a common understanding of drought, no homogeneous definition of drought is in use in the area
- Drivers (supply/demand) for implementing common measures are not at all the same in all countries and measures are implemented at very different scales.

What:

- Enhance reservoirs operations/strategies to improve quality and quantity
- Increase the supply and reduce the demand
- Planning strategies at basin level, conservation measures
- Use of non conventional resources (desalination), recycling
- Demand/use prioritisation
- Enforcement, tarification
- Best scale to address the issues
- Measure for impact mitigation

How:

- Establish a drafting group composed of the 12 people of the working groups in Brindisi, using existing structures and projects with a focal point for information exchange

- Organize a workshop to share information
- Drafting of a paper on common definitions, examples of measures, identification of existing projects, to be presented at the WD meeting

c. Linking Rural Development with water management

Why:

- Environmental interactions of both agriculture and water practices are completely interlinked. For the manager on the ground, combined solutions are needed to respond to environmental requirements of various policies and the demands of the public. Understanding is needed on the environmental rules of these interactions, how to manage them and provide proper feedback to the political level.

What:

- Sharing knowledge and experience.
- Contribute to solving conflicting situations hampering integration by bridging the gaps between the different interest levels (political<->field) and between the different technical interests (farmer<->decision making level)
- Organize proper feedback of technical experience to political level.

How:

- Create a first network for knowledge exchange based on the experts present at The WG on RD-Water Management using an electronic forum
- Compile an inventory of relevant on-going actions/projects, and the eventual extension of the network.
- Organize partners and collaboration with technical offices at political levels to initialize case studies to address specific issues while building further on PRB experience.
- Organization of a workshop, upon advancement of technical work (Portugal support) to provide clear feedback to the political level using the joint WFD/MED-EUWI structures.

Various partners indicated availability of local resources for collaborative case studies.

8. It was felt that the integration of non-EU partners is not so straightforward due to inequalities in level of involvement, appreciation of environmental problems in relation to basic socio-economic situations and different political requirements and structures. However collaboration at technical level should bridge these gaps and prepare the road for later political commitments.

9. On the third day, the Extra Session of the Med-EUWI offered a forum for various NGO stakeholders to present their involvement and position towards the initiative. Synergies with the process were indicated and these partners will be involved in the drafting of an action plan for coordination of the planned activities.

The process for finalising the work plan of joint WFD/EUWI process was agreed, namely:

The secretariat will add comments received and circulate across the participants and all EUWI for comments. It was stressed to highlight and distinguish between the activities already funded and the new proposals

Present the revised work plan to the SG of the EUWI on 19 October

Present a detailed strategy for the joint process at the next WD meeting in Amsterdam in December to receive their agreement.

Following questions from the floor COM stressed that there was no additional fund available from the next 2 years and that there was a need to streamline existing funds. There was a proposal to make a cluster of MED Research projects.

10. It was further proposed that the working groups (WGs) would become activities under a regional (Mediterranean) component of a joint WFD/EUWI process linking EU and non-EU partners and eventually add to the strategy of the CIS for the Mediterranean PRBs.

11. General conclusions:

The workshop succeeded in increasing the understanding of the position of the different processes currently on-going:

- WFD CIS process that includes the PRB
- The apparent linkages between CAP/RD and the WFD
- The EUWI-MED initiative.

It also created an initial forum for knowledge exchange taking into account the specific conditions of the Mediterranean area and interfaces with EU and non-EU countries. Linkages are constructed under the EUWI-MED umbrella.

After this technical discussion on setting up a joint WFD/EUWI process with technical Working Groups to address Mediterranean specific implementation issues, the necessary resources and political commitments are still to be identified but it is felt that technical work at appropriate levels will close this gap. The working groups are crucial to the realization of this goal.

Annex 1: Agenda
Annex 2: List of Participants

MEDITERRANEAN JOINT PROCESS

**MEDITERRANEAN Water Framework Directive /
EU Water Initiative JOINT PROCESS
(Med EUWI / WFD JP)**

1. Background

1.1. Dublin, 2004

The WFD/EUWI Joint Process, aiming at establishing synergies between EU and non-EU partners' experiences on Water Management issues, was presented during the Water Directors Meeting, 23 June, Dublin. This Joint Process was welcomed by the WD, and it was proposed that a more detailed proposal would be prepared by December, including the outputs of 2 technical meetings to be held in Sweden in August and in Italy in September.

1.2. Stockholm, August 2004

Beside the Multistakeholder Forum meeting, 3 specific sessions were organised. One of those was dedicated to the links between the WFD and the EUWI, see minutes in Annex 1. Two topics were on the agenda: public participation and economic costs and benefits.

The idea of creating synergies between WFD implementation and EUWI was welcomed by the participants, in particular those from partner countries¹¹. It was proposed that the most relevant principles, tools, methodology and lessons learned from implementation to date of the WFD of interest to EUWI partners be identified, and that these be used and even adapted in the EUWI context; wherever a need is expressed by EU partners that can appropriately be addressed with these instruments. It was advised to develop this joint process on a regional basis, taking into account the characteristics of each region and the particular links with the WFD. A virtual forum on the EUWI website will be set up to allow for further discussions on the basis of the Stockholm session.

1.3. Brindisi, September 2004

The first regional approach has started with the Mediterranean component. During the workshop on Mediterranean Pilot River Basins, held in Brindisi on 22-23 September, a MED joint process was outlined. During the MED EUWI session, held back-to-back, the specific objectives of the MedEUWI activity plan related to IWRM activities were discussed.

2. General outline of the Med Joint Process

2.1. The overall objective of the Med Joint Process

The Joint WFD/EUWI process aims at developing synergies between the two mechanisms to facilitate the implementation of sound water policies. That means, in EU countries, facilitate the implementation of the WFD and in other countries, facilitate the development of good water management practices, which is a prerequisite for sustainable drinking water and sanitation projects, and therefore, a contribution to the achievement of the water-related MDGs.

¹¹ Were present representatives from all the regional components (presentations from Moldova and Senegal) ; and, on the EU side, D, UK, F, GR, SW, ...

Sharing experiences between countries or basin authorities belonging to the same ecoregions and thus facing similar challenges could facilitate the implementation of water management policies.

The Med Joint Process encourages the establishment of a network of water experts, volunteers for sharing their own difficulties and ready to get experiences from other basins or countries.

2.2. Overall approach

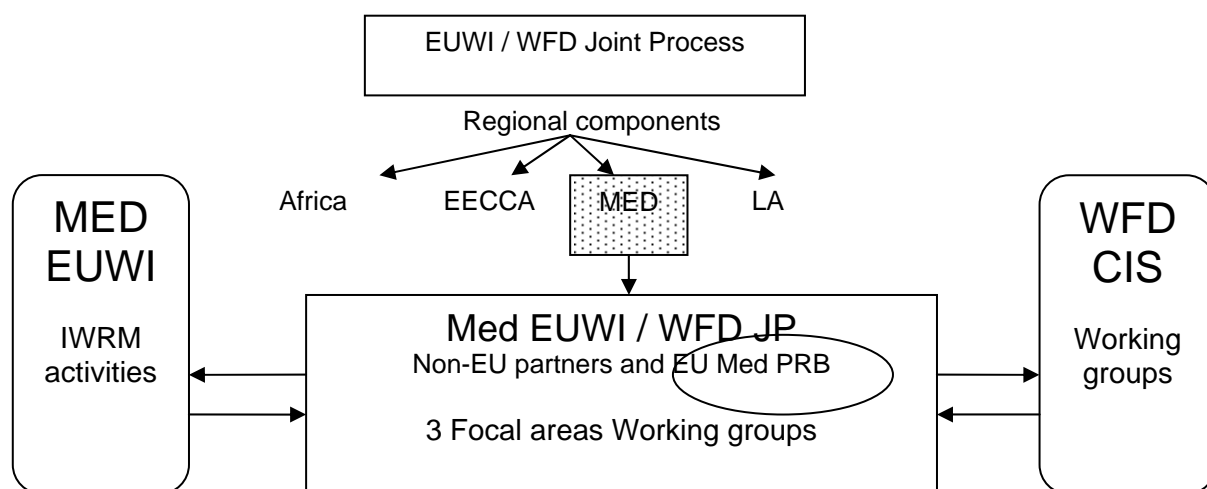
To achieve this objective, the Med Joint Process aims at developing a mechanism to ensure the flow of information and knowledge between water managers / experts from both sides of the Mediterranean.

The role that Med Pilot River Basins¹² could play is of particular interest in this framework. They cover a broad scope of problems frequently encountered in the North Mediterranean countries. But similar situations are encountered also in the Southern and Eastern border of the Mediterranean Sea, exacerbated by additional factors such as intensive and increasing demand for irrigation purposes, faster growing population and improvement of standard of living.

The experience gained by the Med PRB, particularly on the development of River Basin Management Plan could be valuable for other basins in the area. On the other side, specific know-how already developed by non-EU countries facing the same challenges could bring interesting solutions for EU basins and thus could facilitate the implementation of the WFD.

The Med PRB could act as interface to transfer specific knowledge gained in the context of the CIS, and bring back to the CIS specific experience gained in the Mediterranean context.

The organisational framework of the MedJP is structured along the following lines.



At technical level, the idea is to foster exchanges on thematic topics and to produce specific recommendations related to these themes.

The political level could be the mobilisation of the Water Directors of the Mediterranean area.

2.2.1. Technical level

The proposed activities are the following:

2.2.1.1. Improve access on information

In order to gather information and ensure cross-cutting linkages between the working groups, it is proposed to identify a Focal Point, appointed to gather and disseminate information to all members of the WGs, via a website.

¹² Cecina (IT), Jucar (SP), Pinios (GR), Tevere (IT)

This focal point could be EMWIS¹³ in charge of information dissemination on Water in the Mediterranean area and especially on the Water Framework Directive.

2.2.1.2. Disseminate best practices

During the Brindisi workshop, three specific topics were identified as interesting issues to be further discussed. It was proposed to set up working groups to address these 3 issues and to produce specific recommendations.

As much as possible, these working groups should be linked with the EU working groups under the CIS and Med PRBs should constitute the interface between the WFD and the EUWI.

Beside the activity of each Working group, an annual meeting is foreseen to ensure cross-fertilization between all the members of the groups, to discuss more widely the issues; and to discuss the future activities to be developed (new priorities ...).

2.2.2. Political Level

Med Water Directors could play a significant role in this process by steering the whole MedJP. To this respect, the EURO-Med Water Directors Forum¹⁴, could be mobilised and serves as political platform to support the Med Joint Process.

The next meeting of EuroMed Water Directors forum will be held on Spring 2005. Contacts will be developed to include the Med Joint Process in the agenda.

The strategy of the Med JP could be discussed during this meeting and in 2006, Med Water directors could agree on certain recommendations to improve the water management in the Med area.

3. Organisation

3.1. Working Groups

Three Working groups are created on the following issues:

- Water scarcity management;
- Groundwater management;
- Linking rural development and agriculture to water management.

The main lines of their **mandate** are the following:

- Create an electronic forum for networking;
- Draft a position paper;
- Organise further exchanges of knowledge;
- Set up test cases for applied research.

The two first groups are directly linked with Working/drafting groups set up for the implementation of the WFD.

The Activity sheets are presented in Annex 4.

Membership of the Working group is the following:

PRBs project coordinators, non-EU RBO representatives, governmental representatives, stakeholders (NGOs, researchers,...)

¹³ Euro Mediterranean Information System on Know-how in the Water sector; South Med countries covered: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, The Palestinian Authority

¹⁴ Including Turkey, Jordan, Israel, Palestinian Authority, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco but not the Balkans countries.

3.2. Interface between working groups and the CIS and the Med EUWI

The Med Joint Process is entirely part of the general Joint Process which is overlooked both by the EU Water Directors and the EUWI Steering group.

But as decided in Stockholm, the regional Joint processes are integrated in the Regional IWRM components. Therefore, the MedJP will be coordinated by Greece, as leader of the MedEUWI and the Commission, responsible for the CIS. Thus, interfaces between the CIS and the MedEUWI will be secured.

4. Financial and human resources

The contribution of Member states as leaders of the Working groups is identified in the project sheets. Mobilisation of non-EU partners (water experts, governmental representatives, NGOs representatives,...) can be partly covered by the Commission (DGENV & JRC).

Contribution of some Med organisations in the process is already secured: EMWIS, as focal point for information dissemination, MENBO as central operator for mobilising Med River Basins organisations and organising the annual Med JP workshop.

Complementary resources to make the Med Joint Process operational have to be further identified. But connecting the Med JP with existing activities/programmes could alleviate the financial burden needed for its functioning.

The main complementary financial resources could come from:

- Specific EU programmes: RTD (projects such as AQUASTRESS¹⁵, or future Specific support action,...), MEDA Water Programme¹⁶, LIFE-Third countries, ENP;
- Other programmes or activities.

Synergies are already identified with other organisations which are committed in the development of IWRM approach in the Med area. These linkages are described in the Med JP Rod Map under preparation.

At longer term, new EU financial instruments could be mobilised (in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy).

¹⁵ On-going contacts to identify the exact contribution of the project in the Med JP

¹⁶ On-going contacts with EuropAid

ACTIVITY SHEETS

WG 2C – Groundwater

Activity sheet 6 – Development of partnership on groundwater issues between the EU and non EU countries of the Mediterranean region

i. Objectives

To exchange experiences, share common challenges and develop synergies between the EU and non EU countries or river basins of the Mediterranean on groundwater issues, aiming at the adoption of a common vision on groundwater resources management, based on the WFD approach and objectives, in the Mediterranean region, in the framework of a “Joint WFD & EUWI process”. The development of partnership on groundwater issues between the Mediterranean countries should lead to a wider “joint Mediterranean process” on water related issues.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in a workshop or specific sessions during WG 2C workshops (covered by Activity sheets 1-4), other related regional/international workshops, and in the Groundwater Conference (Activity Sheet 5), identification of the most pressing needs of the Mediterranean region regarding groundwater resources management, selection of relevant groundwater issues to be further jointly addressed and drafting of technical specifications and specific recommendations, based on the WFD approach and the regional conditions, on these issues. The work will take account the experience gained by the Pilot River Basins, the Member States and the non EU countries of the Mediterranean region.

In addition to these tasks, linkages have to be established with other ongoing processes, activities and projects implemented in the Mediterranean region, inter alia, within the framework of the “Joint WFD/Mediterranean Component of the EUWI” Process.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

Besides the workshops referred to in Activity sheets 1-5 and the Groundwater conference (Activity sheet 6), a specific workshop will likely take place in 2005 (date to be defined) in a country of the Mediterranean area. Additional meetings or specific sessions during general workshops may be organised, depending on the progress of the activity and specific needs. The drafting of the technical specifications and specific recommendations should be completed by June 2006.

iv. Contact person/s

Mediterranean PRB coordinators, S. Detoc and Ph. Quevauviller

v. Participants

Selected participants from the WG 2C Plenary Forum plus groundwater experts from EU and non EU countries of the Mediterranean, including PRB coordinators, partners from the Mediterranean Component of the EUWI and other Organisations/Institutes of the region involved in groundwater issues.

vi. Type and intensity of work

Preparation of key items for discussion and participation in the specific workshop (one day) and, as appropriate, in the other WG 2C workshops (one day each) and in the Groundwater Conference (2 days). Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the workshop(s) by presenting case studies and communicating relevant information/papers on relevant groundwater issues.

Activity sheet on water scarcity Follow up of the drafting

i. Introduction

In November 2003 during their meeting in Roma the water directors recognised the necessity of tackling the issue of the water scarcity at the light of drought events already occurred all over Europe. The Water Framework Directive adopted in 2000 in its article 1 tackles the issue of water scarcity, it :

- “promotes sustainable water use based on a long term protection of available water resources
- contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts
- it contributes to provision of the sufficient supply of good quality surface water and groundwater as needed for sustainable balanced and equitable water use”

Nevertheless quantitative issues are probably less developed than quality issues in the following technical articles of the WFD. This is why as already done before for floods, it has appeared necessary to investigate the water scarcity issue.

This concern of the Water directors has led to the creation of a working group on scarcity, led by France. This working group has met twice in 2004 and has resulted in a collaborative workshop with the research community, held in Palermo on October 8 and 9 of 2004. During the meetings the working group has identified that the scarcity issue should be treated through two phenomena leading to different actions and effects:

- drought events management
- water scarcity resulting from supply-demand imbalances

The working group has also identified that the link with research activities should be strong in order to provide definitions, assessments, and pilot studies. According to all the developments and research presented in Palermo by research team. It seems necessary to propose to integrate some representatives of the “ARID cluster” into the drafting group of the CIS.

The EUWI, and particularly its Mediterranean component, has also tackled the scarcity issues during a recent workshop in Brindisi (September 2004) on the WFD/EUWI Joint Process. They have created a working group with representatives of non EU countries, Mediterranean stakeholders and water experts, who have already a great experience of scarcity issues. In order to merge the efforts and share experiences it is proposed to associate two representatives of the Mediterranean working group to the drafting group of the CIS. To start the collaboration, Tunisia and Egypt, as non-EU governmental members, could be the ones who represent the Med working group in the CIS drafting group.

In order to merge all the efforts on the scarcity topic, the scarcity drafting group is expected to establish strong links with the drafting on “groundwater chemical and quantitative status” and also with specific Mediterranean Groundwater issues inside of WG2C (activity sheets 4 and 6).

ii. Objectives

The main objective of the drafting group is to provide and share information, and possible actions in order to react on scarcity issues. The drafting group will have to stress the links and potential gaps of water scarcity issues and WFD. The final output will be a report addressing different types of definitions, issues, and related actions. In order to share the first outputs and experiences of the drafting group Cyprus and the ARID cluster have proposed organise a workshop in May 2005, in Cyprus.

The main document to be produced is proposed to be divided in different chapter according to the proposal of the group and the conclusions of the Palermo workshop.

The document will mainly integrate the tentative following chapters:

Introduction : WFD and scarcity: concerns and gaps

- in which articles do quantitative issues need to be addressed?
- what are the proposed actions?
- are there some gaps?
- links with article 17 and groundwater daughter directive?

Chapter I : Definitions and assessment of the different phenomena

- drought event management
- long term imbalances in supply and demand

Chapter II: Drought planning and management

- type of measures (demand/supply)
- organisation (awareness,...) and planning
- efficiency of proposed measures
- common principles

Chapter III: long term imbalances in supply and demand

- type of measures (demand/supply)
- efficiency of proposed measures
- common principles

Conclusion: Lessons to learn

All the chapters will be dedicated to give a better understanding of scarcity issues. In each chapter experiences examples coming from the research sphere and the Mediterranean non EU be integrated.

iii. PRB Component

On a voluntary basis PRB are invited to try to treat some of the key issues identified at their regional level and to exchange with the experts of the group. The leader of the drafting group on scarcity will be in charge to make the link with the PRB leader.

iv. Organisation

The drafting group is expected to work on the two subjects (and long term). A team of three to five persons will be in charge of drafting the three chapters and of the introduction identified above. The work can be divided inside of each chapter. Once a chapter or a sub chapter will be drafted will circulate around the drafting group for remarks. When the chapters will be validated they will be compiled in the document.

v. Expected outcomes

At the kick off meeting of the drafting group a tentative table of contents will be presented for proposed the chapters and sub chapters.

vi. Detailed timetable and milestones

To be refined after the first meeting of the drafting group tentatively

<i>Time</i>	<i>2005</i>				<i>2006</i>			
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>...</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>..</i>
Introduction	X							
Drafting chapters	X	X	X	X	X			
Workshops		X			X			

<i>Deliverables</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>..</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>..</i>
.....								

vii. Contact person/s

The drafting group on scarcity is proposed to be led by France. The main responsibilities of the leader will be to organize the work inside the group and to produce the documents mentioned above.

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Claire Grisez	French ministry	claire.grisez@ecologie.gouv.fr
Gregory Boinel	French ministry	gregory.boinel@ecologie.gouv.fr
Thierry Davy	French water Agencies	thierry.davy@tiscali.be

viii. Participants

The drafting group leader will be assisted by a number of participants. Participation in the group is, in principle, open to all other members of the SCG, plus about three member of the research sphere, and about three non EU countries of the Med EUWI. However, in view of the specified tasks, the group is particularly interested in people from two different horizons: specialist of the definition and the assessment of the phenomena and practitioners in charge of the implementation and the evaluation of the measures. It is important to emphasize that the main aim is to produce a practical document.

In order to enhance an efficient and optimal operation of the group, it is proposed to include no more between 15 to 20 persons in the drafting group. Candidates who are interested can contact the leader of the drafting group mentioned above. All the participants are supposed to take an active part to the drafting of the different chapters. Contributions from the Mediterranean part will be prepared by the Med Working group and presented to the CIS drafting group via appointed representatives (Tunisia and Egypt).

ix. Type and intensity of work

The group will meet around two to three times a year and the main part of the work will be done by email. The work will be shared between the members of the group. Group of 2 to three persons will be in charge of drafting the different sub chapters of the document on each selected key issue. Each draft subchapter; will circulate around the whole group for remarks. After that the leader will be in charge to compile them in one document and to present the results to the CIS boards (SCG, Water directors). Where, appropriate, the Mediterranean Working group will meet back-to-back the CIS drafting group to produce specific inputs to the general document.

x. Other issues