

**MEDITERRANEAN COMPONENT  
of the EU Water Initiative  
(MED EUWI)**

**Strategic Partnership on  
Water for Sustainable Development**

**Lead Country: Greece**

**Activity Plan 2004-2006**

**DFAFT 1**

**MED EUWI**

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## ABREVIATIONS

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AMCOW	African Ministerial Council on Water
BSEC	Black Sea Economic Cooperation
CARDS	Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization
CEDARE	Centre for Environment and Development of Arab Region and Europe
CIDA	Canadian International Development Aid
CIHEAM	International Centre for Advance Mediterranean Agronomic Studies
CMP	Catchment Management Plans
CZMP	Coastal Zone Management Plans
DABLAS	Danube-Black Sea Task Force
DFID	Department for International Development (UK)
DG	Directorate General (of the Commission of the European Union)
EDS	European Desalination Society
EEA	European Environment Agency
EECCA	Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia
EIB	European Investment Bank
EIC	Euro-Mediterranean Network of Irrigators
EMWIS	The Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water Sector
EU	European Union
EUWI	European Union Water Initiative (or sometimes referred as simply the Initiative)
EUREAU	European Union of National Associations of Water Suppliers and Waste Water Services
FEMIP	Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment Partnership
FFA	Framework for Action (for Water in the Mediterranean)
FYROM	Former Yugoslavic Republic of Macedonia
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP	Global Water Partnership
GWP-Med	Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean
IFIs	International Financial Institutes
IME	Institut Méditerranéen de l'Eau (Mediterranean Water Institute)
INBO	International Network of Basin Organisations
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
JICA	Japan International Development Aid
MAP/UNEP	The Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MedCities	The Mediterranean Network of Local Authorities
MEDRC	Middle East Desalination Research Centre
MEDTAC	Mediterranean Technical Advisory Committee (of GWP)
MedWet	The Mediterranean Wetlands Initiative
MED EUWI	Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative
MENBO	Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations
MEPP	Middle East Peace Process
METAP	Mediterranean Technical Assistance Programme
MIO-ECSDE	Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture & Sustainable Development
MStF	Multi-Stakeholder Forum (of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative)
MStF	Multi-Stakeholder Forum Steering Committee
MWN	Mediterranean Water Network
NAMCOW	North Africa Ministerial Council on Water (under the AMCOW)
NSSDs	National Strategies for Sustainable Development
ODA	Official Development Aid
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
PAP/RAC	Priority Action Programme / Regional Activity Centre (MAP/UNEP)
PPP	Public Private Partnerships
PRSPs	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
REC	Regional Environment Centre
REReP	Regional Environment Reconstruction Programme
SAP	Stabilization and Association Process
SE Europe	Southeastern Europe
SMAP	Short and Medium Term Priority Environmental Action Programme
SWAPs	Sector Wide Approach Papers
UN	United Nations
UNEP	United National Environment Programme
USA	United States of America
WB	World Bank
WDM	Water Demand Management
WEHAB	Water, Energy, Health, Agriculture and Biodiversity
WFD	Water Framework Directive (of the European Union)
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

## Preamble

The present document provides an outline of the Activity Plan for the period 2004-2006 for the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI). Its main objective is to operationalize the EU Water Initiative (EUWI) aims and principles in the Mediterranean region and more specifically in South & East Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe. The document is based on the concept developed through a set of regional consultations during a Preparatory Phase in 2003, the results of which were presented in the MED EUWI Operation Plan. Firm political commitment has been expressed for MED EUWI development and the related recommendations are reflected at large in the document.

The document has two main divisions that are analysed in four parts. The first division includes Parts A and B and presents the overarching EUWI and MED EUWI rationale, objectives, principles and features. The second division includes Parts C and D that describe the MED EUWI Programmatic Objectives and gives an outline of the main Outputs and Activities foreseen for 2004-2006.

The present draft document would be completed with a more comprehensive version that would be finalized by June 2004, taking into account consultations and input by stakeholders and donors. In the final version of the MED EUWI Activity Plan 2004-2006, each Objective will have its own distinct Outputs and Activities well described with timeframes, budgets, lead agencies, etc. It is recognized that the MED EUWI is still evolving and that activities may need to be modified as experience is gained. It is also recognized that there is a continuing need to exchange information, take into account and coordinate as much as possible with initiatives taken by actors not directly involved in the EUWI, such as various donors, international institutions, the World Bank and other International Financial Institutes.

## **Part A. THE EU WATER INITIATIVE**

### **A.1. Introduction**

#### **A.1.1. Averting a water crisis**

Over 1,2 billion people world-wide lack access to safe water supply and almost 2,5 billion people lack basic sanitation. More than 5 million people die each year from water-related diseases that are mostly preventable. Water problems are most acute in Africa where it is estimated that 300 million people are affected by water shortages. However, the situation is bad in many other parts of the world, too.

The global water crisis is a threat to economic development, to poverty reduction, to the environment, as well as to peace and security. Water is central to sustainable development and solving water problems means progress across all dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The challenges for the water sector have been highlighted in many fora at international, regional, national and local level. The global and regional Visions and Frameworks for Action presented at the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Water Forum (The Hague, 2000) provided a new impetus in formulating comprehensive plans of action to meet the challenges. The International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn, 2001) and the more recent 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum (Kyoto, 2003) reiterated many of the issues and concerns and set out recommended plans of actions in a number of key areas.

#### **A.1.2. The EU and WSSD**

The international community, having realised the linkages between water and the key overarching objective of poverty alleviation, as well as the stress that water resources undergo has included the objective of halving the proportion of people that do not have access to safe drinking water by 2015 in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Water has also been one of the WEHAB themes selected by the UN as priority fields for action for the coming decades.

In Johannesburg, water issues have received new impetus. The targets for halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2015 and the target for developing national integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans by 2005 have been important outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) that will steer international efforts over coming years.

The European Union (EU) recognising the unique opportunity that the WSSD provided to achieve progress on sustainable development, including clear targets and timetables and in response to demands, undertook its "Water Initiative" as a key contribution to the implementation of the WSSD programme of action and to help achieve water-related MDGs.

The European Union's Water Initiative: Water for Life – Health, livelihoods, economic development and security (EUWI) was formally launched during the WSSD in September 2002. Within this new framework, the EU has reached in Johannesburg agreements with Africa and with Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and has announced a third regional Component dedicated to the Mediterranean region.

EUWI has been developed in a multi-stakeholder process and is open to all partners and regions. It aims to improve the efficiency of existing financing mechanisms through better co-ordination. A priority is to increase the transfer of knowledge through institutional capacity

building, targeted research and scientific co-operation. EU funding is intended to attract additional financial resources.

EUWI is based on the concept that co-operation between countries sharing an international river basin in managing their water resources is both possible and desirable. Europe's experience shows that such co-operation stimulates economic development and regional integration and prevents conflict over water. Through the Initiative, the EU intends to help its partners to develop integrated water resources management plans by 2005 - another WSSD goal and achieve a sustainable balance between human water needs and those of the environment.

All partners are committed to ensuring that clean water and basic sanitation are given appropriate priority in the future. In this respect, the EU is committed to enhance coordination and increase financial and development assistance to the water sector; partner countries are committed to prioritise and include water as an integral part of their Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) and National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs). This Initiative also promotes better water governance arrangements and transparency, building stronger partnerships between national, regional and local governments, civil society and the private sector. Effective public services managed in an efficient way are basic for sustainable water governance.

The Council of the European Union has fully endorsed EUWI which also carries political support from the European Commission and the 15 Member States. The Initiative is being developed in an open and transparent manner and is based on strategic partnerships in specific regions that draw together government, civil society, private sector and others to help achieve the water-related goals. Initial demand has been articulated by the representatives from both Africa and the EECCA countries and in responding to this demand the Initiative has full political support also from the respective non EU governments, and other stakeholder partners, in these regions. Since the EUWI's launching, the Component dealing with the Mediterranean –including the Balkans- and the Component dealing with Latin America was added. At the same time, three cross-cutting Components: on Finances, Research and Monitoring & Information Systems are developed.

### **A.1.3. Committing targets and action**

Political support for EUWI is reinforced by commitments to achieve key water-related targets and the EU reconfirmed its strong commitment to contribute to:

- By 2015, halve the proportion of people who do not have access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation;
- By 2005, develop integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans in all countries.

Improved access to water supply and basic sanitation can make a major contribution to poverty eradication, health improvements, quality of life and protection of the environment but this contribution is often underestimated. Progress toward targets on water supply and sanitation has been slow, particularly with regard to sanitation, and a higher priority for these in poverty reduction strategies and sustainable development strategies is required.

Water resource management needs to be addressed at all levels and should be based on the natural river, lake or groundwater basin. Integrated water resources management (IWRM) with strong stakeholder participation, a pro-poor emphasis, and gender sensitivity is a key instrument to ensure the integration of water services within an overall water management framework. Integrated water resources management also provides a framework to promote peace and security in transboundary water courses. As such, the EU

also confirms its support to initiatives that promote regional co-operation and economic development in transboundary water courses.

Implementation must ensure a balance between human water needs and those of the environment. Freshwater ecosystems provide a range of vital services related to biodiversity, the hydrological cycle, and self-purification capacity. The health of ecosystems is therefore key to human health, to sustainable development, and to poverty reduction and vice-versa. Improvements in efficiency and sustainability of water use, and river basin management, should contribute to the goals to halt or reverse by 2015 the current trend of loss of natural resources and biodiversity.

#### **A.1.4. Achieving the targets**

To meet the challenges, the policy profile of water needs to be higher in all agendas: local, national, regional and global. This political commitment needs to be translated into concrete and co-ordinated action. The primary responsibility for ensuring equitable and sustainable water resources management integrated into development strategies rests with local and national governments, and their sustained ownership of both policies and projects is essential to achieve results. Applying a consistent sectoral approach to support partner countries and regions can also ensure better coherence, co-ordination and complementarity.

Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage, which must be protected, defended and treated as such. Access to clean water and basic sanitation is recognized as a 'right'. Good governance as well as political and sectoral reforms are necessary to secure proper management. Indeed, it has been stated that '*the water crisis is mainly a crisis of governance*' (GWP, 2000) and making water governance effective is a major challenge for almost all countries. Better governance arrangements and measures to safeguard against corruption and financial and operational mismanagement are important and necessary in various degrees throughout the world. Partnerships between public, private and civil society actors have to be promoted, ensuring that those partnerships are essential and active and that they remain equitable and transparent, able to safeguard consumers' (even the most poor) and investors' interests while maintaining high standards of environmental protection. Institutional strengthening, capacity building and expanding the knowledge base are all essential to support sound planning and decision-making processes. Such processes should also guarantee participation of all stakeholders and secure through it ownership of policies and strategies.

The targets cannot be achieved without addressing a number of other horizontal or cross-cutting issues: gender inequality, for instance, hinders growth, poverty reduction and progress in health and education. The role of women in household water provision and use is frequently ignored in planning and management processes and their potential role in income-generation and poverty reduction programmes is often underestimated. Mainstreaming gender equity is essential in meeting the targets.

The importance of water in environmental sustainability and integrity and functioning of natural ecosystems, which sustain our existence, are also key factors. These issues and others can also benefit from research to develop the critical knowledge needed for policy formulation and in order to implement policies and principles.

Closing the financing gap is one of the major challenges. Financial estimates to meet the Millennium Development Goals for water and sanitation, as reported in 2001 by the UN High Level Panel on Financing for Development, suggested that between US\$10-29 billion per year is required on top of the roughly US\$30 billion already being spent. These figures reflect the needs for water supply and sanitation only and significant other resources will also be required for all other aspects of water management. The Camdessus Report (2003)

presented in Kyoto, estimates the current investment on water related issues to 80 billion USD and suggests that in order to address our needs 180 billion USD are needed annually by 2015. These figures correspond to secondary treatment plants and are considered by many as the 'upper' estimates.

Improved efficiency of existing financial resources and the identification of mechanisms to attract additional and innovative financial resources will be important factors. Globally, the EU Commission and EU member states spend close to €1,5 billion<sup>1</sup> on water resource development and management projects per year and improving the efficiency of these investments can make a difference. Using these funds to leverage other forms of finance including from users and from the private sector should be investigated.

The outcome of the Conference on Financing for Development (2002), the Monterrey Consensus, has been a commitment to mobilise and increase the effective use of financial resources and to achieve national and international economic conditions to fulfil internationally agreed development targets. Recalling its commitments made in Monterrey, the EU is ready to increase and deliver these resources over the following years within the context of countries' efforts to reduce poverty in the framework of sustainable development. Ensuring some of these resources feed through to water-related activities requires the water sector as a whole to be treated as a key priority both within donors' development assistance strategies and partner countries' PRSPs, NSSDs and SWAPs. Whilst such additional funds can make a contribution to achieving the MDGs on water it is clear that additional efforts will be necessary to close the financing gap. The EU Member States have stated repeatedly that are ready to increase financial resources over the coming years, in response to the priorities developing countries set themselves.

## **A.2. Objectives**

The EU Water Initiative seeks to make significant progress in poverty eradication and health, in the enhancement of livelihoods, and in sustainable economic development. EUWI also seeks to serve as a catalyst for peace and security.

EUWI provides a platform for strategic partnerships to implement the programmes of action for the WSSD and to contribute to meeting the Millennium Development Goals on water. Under EUWI, the EU seeks to work with its partners to fulfil the following key Objectives:

- Reinforce political commitment to action and raise the profile of water and sanitation issues in the context of poverty reduction efforts;
- Promote better water governance arrangements. This includes encouraging the public and private sectors and local stakeholders to work together better. It also includes efforts to strengthen institutional capacity at the regional, national and local levels, by providing expertise and promoting good practice, improved partnerships for sharing technology, information, research and knowledge and awareness raising;
- Improve co-ordination and co-operation in the way that water-related interventions are developed and implemented. This includes a shift away from stand-alone projects towards sector wide approaches on the one hand, but also towards functional cross-sectoral links (e.g. agriculture/forestry/livestock and water; hygiene education and health outcomes). It also includes establishing multi-stakeholder processes to reinforce partnerships for action and promoting south-south collaboration and co-operation;
- Encourage regional and sub-regional co-operation on water management issues, using the integrated water resources management approach. As part of the Initiative, the EU will be supporting the development of IWRM and water efficiency plans by 2005,

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<sup>1</sup> EU Water Initiative – Financial Issues, DFID / European Union, August 2002

including the adoption of policy, planning and management processes on a river-basin scale;

- Catalyse additional funding, through the development of new, flexible and innovative funding mechanisms to attract new partners, and through supporting the establishment of the enabling environment for increased investment.

### **A.3. General principles for the EU Water Initiative**

#### **A.3.1. Adding value**

EUWI seeks to provide an umbrella under which a range of geographical/regional and thematic components can be designed and implemented. It offers several mechanisms by which value can be added to on-going and future actions through improved co-operation and co-ordination, increased efficiency and effectiveness through synergies and promotion of sector-wide approaches.

The EU can draw on a wealth of experience and knowledge in many fields of water related activities and has much to offer in promoting capacity and best practices. For example, at the local-level, EU development programmes strongly advocate the integration of water supply together with sanitation and hygiene education programmes. At the basin scale, the EU is implementing the Water Framework Directive (Dir 2000/60), which constitutes a legal framework and a comprehensive response and translation of IWRM for the EU Member States which also directly influences the policies of acceding and other neighbouring countries.

The EU has a long standing experience in the management of transboundary rivers. The Water Framework Directive that also includes an international, integrated river basins approach, sets clear environmental objectives and requires that all partners in a given river basin manage their waters in close co-operation irrespective of international borders. The European Union experiences show that at an integrated river basin management level, participation by all stakeholders together with knowledge and information exchange could promote economic development, institutional sustainability and conflict prevention. This experience of water management is not only confined to Europe itself. It can inspire others to move towards similar schemes.

Lack of knowledge sharing can engender economic inefficiency and social inequity in water allocation and use and thus comes with potentially high social and economic costs. Scientific knowledge is becoming more generally recognised as crucial for socio-economic development in relative harmony with the natural environment of a country or region and is looked upon as an important confidence building mechanism for transboundary issues. As a result, there is growing demand in partner countries for intensified scientific co-operation with Europe's research community on water issues.

Europe has developed a relevant research and innovation potential in the water sector. Research and innovation is essential for developing or adapting new technologies and approaches for the sustainable use of water resources. This advanced scientific and technological skill applies particularly to water supply and sanitation, efficient use of water in industrial operations and modern irrigation techniques in agriculture, as well as to the development of tools, methodologies and approaches for the implementation and monitoring of integrated water resources management policies. Solutions to problems have to derive from the analysis of the local situations. Therefore, partnerships with local research institutions, stakeholders and citizens is essential for developing long-lasting solutions for sustainable water management solutions.

### **A.3.2. Building on existing initiatives through partnerships**

EUWI does not ignore pre-existing initiatives and structures. It intends to reinforce existing partnerships and bilateral and regional cooperation and collaboration schemes and programmes. Indeed, EUWI strongly recognises the importance of on-going and planned activities and wishes to consider them as “building blocks” under its overall umbrella. Similarly, the importance of existing networks and partnerships (e.g. GWP’s Regional and National Water Partnerships), is fully recognised and the aim is to use, obtain synergy and co-ordinate closely, not duplicate, such activities.

EUWI seeks to promote a range of financial mechanisms already available to water projects and to draw from relevant EU and partner experience. It actively seeks to locate the gaps in the provision of financing and to take co-ordinated and joint action to fill them. Overall, the aim is to seek the right mix of financing options both for capital finance and cost recovery programmes. The Initiative also provides a strong platform calling for additional financing into the sector and could serve as leverage to direct some of the Monterrey Consensus to action programmes on water.

The success of EUWI relies on political commitment from the partners together with stakeholder ownership. As a strategic partnership, the Initiative is open to all partners willing to commit to its objectives, targets, and guiding principles. Basic principles of flexibility and transparency will be applied throughout the design and implementation of the Initiative. Components should be demand-led with specific objectives and ownership resting with a lead partner or partners.

Components under the EUWI umbrella should complement and reinforce other development processes for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Links to PRSPs, NSSDs, regional and national frameworks for action, and water action programmes are important. Implementation should also maximise the use of existing knowledge, methods and best practices.

Initial partners from the European side include the EU Member States, the European Commission, European civil society and the private sector. The development of specific Components has been done through consultations involving initial partners and stakeholders in the partner regions. As the Initiative develops, more governments, the IFI’s, the UN agencies and other relevant organisations and stakeholders are being encouraged to become partners.

Working Groups have been created for all Components chaired by the respective leading entities. A broad selection of stakeholders is invited to participate in each Working Group.

### **A.3.3. A modular approach**

EUWI is building on a modular approach with specific Components addressing thematic priorities in different geographical contexts as well as other critical crosscutting issues. Within any one regional Component there may be one or more thematic priorities identified and each Component should have specific objectives.

The modular approach enables EUWI to develop appropriate responses for different geographical regions and their priorities. This evolutionary process ensures it is shaped through response to demand rather than being pre-determined. Shaping the Initiative should remain transparent and is centred on a policy of equal partners working toward common objectives and targets.

Each Component consists of building blocks. The design phase for each component includes identification of current building blocks, which may be existing networks and alliances or programmes and projects, which are either on-going, planned or under preparation. The overall coherence of the Component relies on an inter-relationship between the building blocks so that they reinforce each other in achieving the specific component objectives. Where gaps are evident these will be addressed through the formation of new building blocks or approximate readjustment and/or expansion of the scope of existing ones. The design phase concludes with the definition of an action programme. Subsequent implementation will ensure local ownership and leadership of these programmes.

2004 marks the beginning of the implementation phase of the Initiative. In this context, it is essential to refine the organisational structure of the EUWI. Existing arrangements need to be formalised to make a success of this implementation phase.

The following have been identified as immediate actions within EUWI framework:

- develop an overview of the situation of different regions and countries with an analysis of major gaps and accompanying organisational, knowledge and financial needs,
- prepare a co-ordinated action programme with a long term financial strategy providing concrete benchmarks and building blocks until 2015,
- establish a monitoring and reporting mechanism to measure progress in implementation and to steer further action, and
- prepare a work programme for the next years, with specified targets and responsibilities.

#### **A.4. Components of the EU Water Initiative**

##### **A.4.1. Regional Components**

In response to political commitments and identified needs the initial regional Components are the following:

##### ***African Component***

Two key thematic areas have been identified under the African component, namely:

- Water Supply and Sanitation – with a focus on water supply and sanitation in rural, urban, peri-urban areas. The Lead Country of the Theme is Denmark.
- Integrated Water Resources Management – with a focus on transboundary river basins. The Lead Country of the Theme is France.

##### ***EECCA Component***

Two key thematic areas have been identified under the EECCA component, namely

- Urban water supply and sanitation, including financing of water infrastructure
- Integrated water resources management, including transboundary river basin management issues

The Lead Country of the Component is Denmark.

##### ***Mediterranean Component***

The thematic areas identified under the Mediterranean Component are:

- Water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies

- Integrated water resources management, with emphasis on management of transboundary water bodies
- Water, food and environment interaction, with emphasis on fragile aquatic ecosystems
- Non-conventional water resources

while as horizontal Themes are identified

- Transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training on water issues
- Education

The Lead Country of the Component is Greece. Italy has expressed preliminary interest for the horizontal Theme on 'Transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training on water issues' *An overall description of context and content of the Mediterranean Component is presented in Part B of the present document.*

### ***Latin America Component***

The thematic areas identified under the Latin America Component are:

- Basic water supply and treatment
- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Prevention and mitigation of situations resulting from extreme events

The Latin America Component is the most recently announced Component and is currently taken its first steps. The Lead Countries of the Latin America Component are Spain and Portugal.

## **A.4.2. Cross cutting Components**

### ***Financing Component***

In recognition of the central role financing plays in implementing the emerging joint action programmes a separate finance Component is under development within the Initiative to address these issues. The Lead Country of the Component is the United Kingdom.

### ***Research Component***

Research is included as an initial crosscutting Component that seeks to build on the existing successful experience on bilateral and EU scientific/technical co-operation to strengthen partnerships and streamline activities. The Lead Organisation of the Component is DG Research of the Commission of the European Union.

### ***Monitoring and Information Systems Component***

The Component, which was recently initiated, focuses on building a common monitoring and information system within EUWI enhancing cooperation among programmes supported by the EU in partner regions / countries. The Lead Organisation of the Component is the EU Commission and Austria.

### ***Remarks***

*Concluding this introduction to EUWI, it is important to have a clear perception of what it is:*

- *an initiative endorsed at the highest political level providing a platform for strategic and political dialogue on water issues*

- *an open forum for consultation with concerned stakeholders within the EU and with other regions*
- *a time-bound process with specified objectives*
- *a mechanism to promote ownership and demand from regional partners*
- *a mechanism for improved co-ordination within the EU and at the beneficiary country level*
- *a means to catalyse funding, both ODA and other sources, for water resources development and service delivery.*

*It is also important to stress that the EUWI is not a new organisation. Also it is not a financial institution or source of finance.*

## **PART B. THE MEDITERRANEAN COMPONENT OF THE EU WATER INITIATIVE**

### **B.1. Water in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe, in brief**

The Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe, a water scarce area especially in the South and East of the region, lies on the cross road of three continents and it has been the cradle of major civilizations. The shared century-old experiences and diverse cultures have resulted to uneven levels of economic development and socio-political systems. The region is encountering a rapid, unbalanced demographic growth and increased urbanization trends, mainly in the coastal areas. At the same time, the region is rich in unique and fragile ecosystems which face development pressures.

A brief description of the main problems and challenges within the water sector in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe is presented in Annex 1. The Annex includes an overall assessment of the current status of progress towards IWRM in the countries of South & East Mediterranean.

As regards initiatives for cooperation and partnerships and actions undertaken to respond to water needs, it is difficult to present an ample overview of the on-going and planned activities in the region. At the same time, there is a great variety in objectives, criteria and procedures of the different donor programmes. A brief account of major existing processes is presented in Annex 2.

### **B.2. MED EUWI Objectives**

As described in Part A, the EUWI was established as a key contribution to the implementation of the WSSD agreements and programme of action and to help achieve water-related MDGs and WSSD targets, providing a platform for strategic partnerships. The Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) shares all its objectives and it seeks to make significant progress in poverty eradication and health, in the enhancement of livelihoods, and in sustainable economic development in the Mediterranean. It also seeks to serve as a catalyst for peace and security in the region.

The main objectives of the MED EUWI are to create a higher efficiency of water-related development by providing a platform to co-ordinate and streamline existing and future activities, aiming to:

- Reinforce political commitment to action and raise the profile of water and sanitation with view to poverty reduction
- Promote better water governance arrangements including stronger partnerships between public and private sectors and local stakeholders and build institutional capacity
- Improve co-ordination and co-operation moving towards sector wide approaches, assisting multi-stakeholder processes to reinforce partnerships for action
- Develop regional and sub-regional co-operation by assisting in the application of integrated water resources management including transboundary waters to contribute to sustainable development and conflict prevention.
- Develop additional and innovative funding mechanisms and catalyze additional funding.

### **B.3. Geographical context**

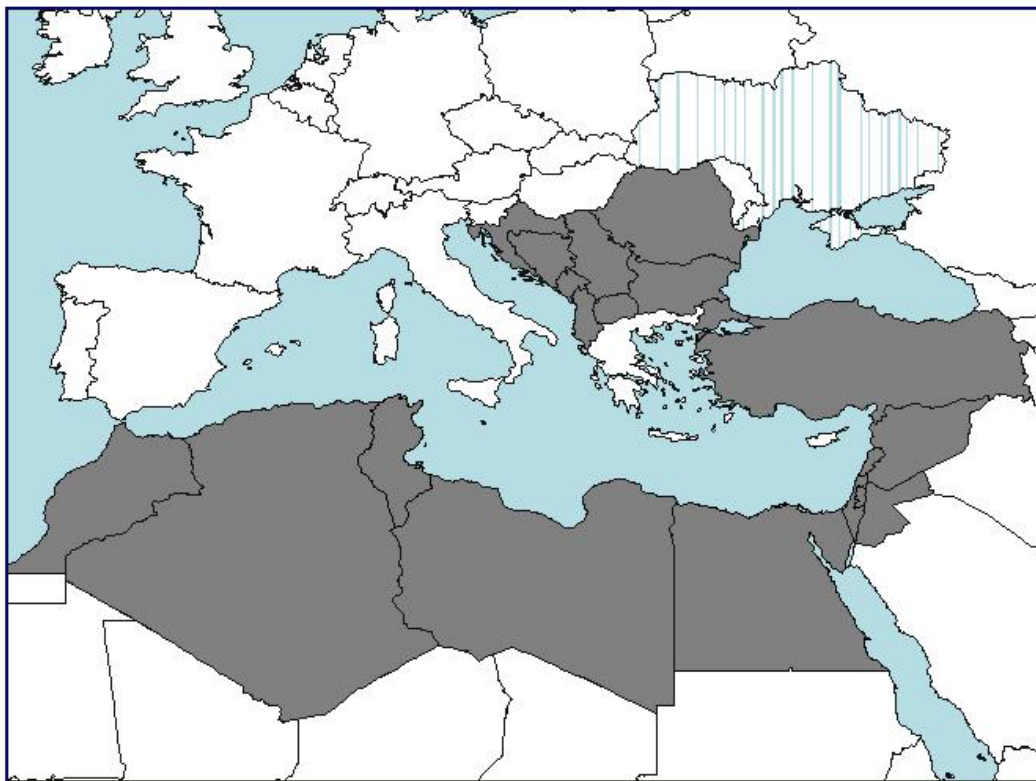
The geographical region covered by the Mediterranean Component embraces all the non-EU riparian countries of the entire Mediterranean basin and a few more non riparian which for geopolitical, hydrological and other reasons (eg. existing cooperation schemes, shared river basins, etc) are also included. Such countries are Jordan, which is part of the much

larger group of the countries of East Mediterranean sharing with them common waters, as well as the Former Yugoslavic Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Bulgaria and Romania, which again are part of the Balkan countries sharing with the rest common transboundary waters. Some times, the non-EU partner countries of the Balkan peninsula are referred to as Southeastern Europe (SE Europe) while the rest as South & East Mediterranean.

More specifically, the area of activity of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative comprises the following countries, that would be referred as *partner countries* :

In South & East Mediterranean – Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian Authority, Syria, Turkey, Tunisia.

In Southeastern Europe – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Former Yugoslavic Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), Romania, Serbia and Montenegro.



Map 1. Non-EU partner countries (in South & East Mediterranean and SE Europe) in the Mediterranean Component - *presented in grey*

#### **B.4. Expected results**

The MED EWI gives particular emphasis to the regional priorities of the Mediterranean and SE Europe, included within the EUWI overall scope. These priorities, needs and strategies are defined in partnership with governments, the Commission and major stakeholders, targeting to

- assist design of better, demand driven and output oriented water related programmes,
- facilitate better coordination of water programmes and projects, targeting more effective use of existing funds and mobilization of new financial resources and,

- enhanced cooperation for project's proper implementation, based on peer review and strategic assessment.

Key areas where the MED EUWI could make a difference are likely to include:

- Promoting water as a cornerstone of sustainable development
- Raising the programmatic profile of water in PRSPs and NSSDs of partner countries
- Coordinating funding for water in a better way among the partners of the Initiative
- Linking together the wide range of financing ideas, networks and mechanisms that currently exist for water in the Mediterranean and SE Europe
- Supporting better project preparation facilities
- Supporting the elaboration of a wider range of models for water sector restructuring in addition to involving private sector participation by competent international operators.

## **B.5. Focus Themes and Approach**

### **B.5.1. Focus Themes**

The MED EU WI will focuses on the following Themes:

- Water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies
- Integrated water resources management, at the national and transboundary level
- Water, food and environment interaction, with emphasis on fragile aquatic ecosystems
- Non-conventional water resources <sup>2</sup>(\*)

while as horizontal Themes are identified

- Transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training on water issues
- Education

It is also suggested that, within each Theme, there will be a focus on a series of cross-cutting aspects like:

- promotion of internationally agreed principles and good practices
- assessment of existing and exploration of new financial mechanisms
- development of benchmarks
- capacity building
- enhancement of participation
- awareness raising and promotion of appropriate education.

### **B.5.2. Approach**

To reach its objectives, the MED EUWI needs to create a positive momentum within the enlarged overall water sector in which resources, capital and knowledge will be invested. Although many alternative ways for reaching the objectives could be followed for the MED EUWI, it had been proposed to start by putting together a cluster of *building blocks* that would assist in bringing different stakeholders with related activities under a common framework and co-ordination. Moreover, a set of *demonstration projects* would assist the process by providing examples of best practices.

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<sup>2</sup> *Following consultations during the Preparatory Phase, it is suggested that within the first phase of the MED EUWI priority will be given to the first three focus Themes.*

The concept of building blocks is explained in Part A. It is emphasized that such process does/will not aim to take any part of ownership or responsibility away from individual implementing partners and supporters. To the contrary it aims to provide an enabling environment for the development of the various complementary initiatives.

In a similar approach, the Component does not aim to guide donors' policies and selection criteria but to function as a platform and show-window where donors and IFIs can present their policies and priority areas in terms of sector and countries / regions they want to support, facilitating a better flow of aid flow in the region.

Potential partners have been encouraged to propose and enlist *building blocks* to the Lead Country of the MED EU WI through an open Call for Building Blocks sent out during the Preparatory Phase. 26 *building blocks* were received so far by a variety of stakeholders. The number and mostly the content of building blocks received does not allow for an in-depth analysis at this stage. It has to be noted that the initial approach regarding building blocks is under discussion and revision within the overall EUWI, fact that discouraged wider advertisement and promotion of the Call for Building Blocks to competent stakeholders. Nevertheless, the building blocks submitted constitute a valuable base for further and more systematic development of the approach. The Call and the list of building blocks received are presented in Annex 3.

#### **B.6. Activities of the Preparatory Phase**

MED EUWI was announced by the President of the European Commission Mr. Romano Prodi and the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. George Papandreou in Johannesburg.. Within 2003 and the first semester of 2004, a set of activities have been implemented or are under development aiming to reach consensus on the objectives and modalities of the Component, develop a sound background, secure political commitment and raise awareness. A brief presentation of these activities is given in Annex 4.

Political commitment for the development of MED EUWI has been already expressed in various fora, inter alia, the EU Informal Council of Environment Ministers (May 2003, Athens), 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the "Environment for Europe" process (May 2003, Kiev), Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (May 2003, Crete), two meetings of the North African Ministers Council on Water (February and October 2003, Cairo) etc.

#### **B.7. Links with on-going related activities at the international and/or regional level**

The MED EUWI will take stock of existing processes, initiatives and cooperation schemes. It will not duplicate activity, but will seek to integrate, complement and add value to existing processes.

Components under the umbrella of the initiative will complement and reinforce other development processes for poverty reduction and sustainable development. Links to poverty reduction strategies (PRSPs), national strategies for sustainable development, regional and national frameworks for action, and water action programmes are important. Implementation should also maximise the use of existing knowledge, methods and best practices.

The MED EUWI will actively seek linkage with other Components of the EU Water Initiative (eg. Africa, Finances, Research, Monitoring). In addition, it will look for synergies with other Mediterranean initiatives run by out-of-the-region institutes / processes.

## C. ACTIVITY PLAN 2004-2006

### C.1. Purpose and Programmatic Objectives

The purpose of the Activity Plan 2004-2006 of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI AP) is to formulate a set of interrelated actions, defined by specific targets, expected results monitoring frameworks and timeframes, and designed to generate the momentum for fulfilling the stated objectives.

The purpose will be attained by considering eight (1-8) Programmatic Objectives that are divided to three Thematic (1-3) and five Horizontal (4-8). The Programmatic Objectives are:

#### Thematic

Objective 1	Initiate programme on Water Supply and Sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest parts of the society
Objective 2	Initiate programme to support national and transboundary IWRM plans
Objective 3	Initiate programme to support sustainable water use in agriculture and its integrated management for sensitive water ecosystems

#### Horizontal

Objective 4	Strengthen underlying institutions and build capacity
Objective 5	Improve coordination between the actors involved in water resources management at the country level
Objective 6	Enhance funding for the supply, management and development of water resources, and sanitation
Objective 7	Improve transfer of technology and the use of existing and new scientific knowledge to achieve water-related MDGs
Objective 8	Promote education on water issues

Objectives 1-3 respond to respective priority Themes identified as areas of implementation during the MED EUWI Preparatory Phase. Their related Outputs are mainly developed through small scale pilot demonstration activities that will be implemented at national and local levels, supported by regional / national baseline assessments. It is suggested that Theme 4 on Non-Conventional Water Resources will be tackled at a later stage of MED EUWI development.

Objectives 4-8 respond to horizontal priorities of the EUWI aiming to assist in building the knowledge basis, facilitating better coordination and enhancing effectiveness through activities at the regional and national levels.

It is to be noted that the present Activity Plan does not entail any direct activity related to implementation of bilateral capital investment programmes of EU Member States and funding Institutes. Nevertheless, several of the activities foreseen within the Plan imply for establishing operational links with such processes, while seeking for enhancing communication channels and more effective coordination among them. Moreover, the suggested demonstration activities aim to act as catalysts for a more integrated approach in the spirit of the MDGs / WSSD targets.

*Comment: The present document is intended as a guide for the process to finalise the 2004-2006 Work Programme by June 2004 taking into account consultations and input by stakeholders and donors. In the final version of the MED EUWI Activity Plan 2004-2006, each Objective will have its own distinct*

*Outputs and Activities well described with timeframes, budgets, lead agencies, etc. It is recognized that the MED EUWI is still evolving and that activities may need to be modified as experience is gained. It is also recognized that there is a continuing need to coordinate with initiatives taken by actors not directly involved in the EUWI, such as other donors, international institutions, the World Bank and other International Financial Institutes.*

## **C.2. Outline of the Activity Plan 2004-2006**

Objective 1	Initiate programme on Water Supply and Sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest parts of the society
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### Output 1.1. Baseline Assessment and Mapping on Water Supply and Sanitation and Poverty in South & East Mediterranean elaborated.

A baseline assessment and mapping will be made, in close cooperation with national authorities and local stakeholders, on the situation regarding water and poverty in the countries of the South and East Mediterranean, with emphasis on social welfare and water pricing policy, legislation, investment trends, etc. The assessment will briefly describe the most important initiatives already undertaken (completed or on-going) at the country and regional levels and will suggest modes of collaboration and operational links with them.

The assessment will elaborate into more detail in two (2) countries and will propose a list of priority projects (on-going or under negotiation) for which poverty eradication interventions could be undertaken, after obtaining local/national agreement for collaboration and international / national support. Such projects would be site or periphery specific, they should reflect the needs of the local societies and consider existing provisions and priorities of national and sub-regional or local planning.

The process and related products suggested within the Africa Component under Output 1.1. ‘Economic, social and environmental justification for poverty-related expenditure on WSS’, is expected to provide useful input to the assessment. Moreover, case studies and experiences from South & East Mediterranean countries could be elaborated using similar methodologies and provide a more complete picture of current needs and practices.

### Output 1.2. Local Assessments on Water and Poverty and facilitation of related follow-up actions in pilot South & East Mediterranean sites implemented

Systematic input for concrete interventions in benefit of the poor will be elaborated in two (2) water supply and sanitation projects (either on-going or in their planning phase) in two (2) South & East Mediterranean countries. The projects that will be selected will mainly deal with suitable provisions and amendments on the design and/or operation of (i) water networks expansions and/or reconstructions to respond to the needs of the poor and/or (ii) major water transfer infrastructures (dams, river diversions, etc.).

Local Assessments on Water and Poverty (LAWP)<sup>3</sup> in each project site will be elaborated in order to fully understand the situation and needs of the poor with respect to water supply and sanitation services for the case in question. Information will be collected, analyzed, and made available to planners, policy makers and advocacy groups for the poor. Specific recommendations will be elaborated, submitted and lobbied to competent authorities and stakeholders. LAWP Workshops will be organized to present and debate in public the LAWP findings and recommendations and elaborate on specific actions to implement the final

<sup>3</sup> Local Assessments on Water and Poverty (LAWP) follows a defined methodology that has been practiced in several parts of the globe

LAWP recommendations. A local multi-stakeholder Coordination Group for the development and promotion of the local action plan would emerge from each LAWP Workshop, with main scope to monitoring the implementation of the specific programme. The necessary actions for funding and implementation of the recommendations will be facilitated by the local Coordination Group.

Objective 2	Initiate programme to support national and transboundary IWRM plans
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Output 2.1. Baseline Assessment of Regional and National Frameworks to Implement IWRM in the South and East Mediterranean and Southeast Europe elaborated.

A baseline assessment will be made of regional and national frameworks for implementation of IWRM in countries of the South and East Mediterranean and SE Europe regions. This comparative assessment would review the status of policy, legal, management and technical frameworks for both transboundary and national level application of IWRM. The assessment will be elaborated based on IWRM guidelines and background developed by competent international organizations and institutions. It would also make reference to the European Union Water Framework Directive (WFD) concept and requirements as well as to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, where applicable. It would identify actions that could be taken on a cooperative and/or individual basis to more fully address IWRM in planning and management programs. An element of the assessment would be the identification of lessons learned and good practices in the application of the WFD and IWRM in the two regions. It would also examine measures used for freshwater, coastal and marine resources management. The activity responds to the priorities of the Athens and Petersberg Processes on integrated management of shared waters.

Output 2.2: Baseline mapping and action programmes in transboundary basins of Southeast Europe prepared.

Baseline mapping and action programmes for transboundary IWRM plans will be elaborated for four (4) pilot shared aquifers in Southeast Europe. Priority will be given to shared river basins.

The action programmes will be prepared following established EC procedures and a financing proposal will be developed. *The implementation of the activities to be recommended within the action programmes is not budgeted in the present MED EUWI Activity Plan but it is expected that financing will commence by interested donors (international and national).*

Output 2.3: Baseline mapping and action programmes in transboundary aquifers of South & East Mediterranean prepared.

Baseline mapping and action programmes for transboundary IWRM plans will be elaborated for two (2) pilot shared aquifers, one in the South and one in the East Mediterranean. Priority will be given to shared groundwater aquifers.

The action programmes will be prepared following established EC procedures and a financing proposal will be developed. *The implementation of the activities to be recommended within the action programmes is not budgeted in the present MED EUWI Activity Plan but it is expected that financing will commence by interested donors (international and national).*

Output 2.4: Baseline mapping and action programmes in countries of South & Mediterranean prepared.

Baseline mapping and action programmes for national IWRM plans for two (2) countries, one in the South and one in the East Mediterranean, that have not developed such planning documents, will be elaborated.

The action programmes will be prepared following established EC procedures and a financing proposal will be developed. *The implementation of the activities to be recommended within the action programmes is not budgeted in the present MED EUWI Activity Plan but it is expected that financing will commence by interested donors (international and national).*

The design of action programmes and the related financial proposals (under Outputs 2.2., 2.3 and 2.4) in the selected basins will be consistent with methodologies to be developed within EUWI and particular the pilot programmes foreseen for Africa, while proper adaptation would be made according to regional / national specificities. These programmes will be built on five (5) mobilising topics:

- The statutes, missions, delegations of the transboundary basin organisations, either already existing or to be created
- The inter-sectoral co-ordination, the degrees of responsibility and decision, the mechanisms for strengthening the partnership for a participatory approach,
- the techniques for the formulation of operational basin management plans and realistic priority action programmes,
- the mobilisation of the financial resources needed for priority investments, the administration of resources and environments, for the functioning of services and infrastructures,
- the monitoring, production, exchange between countries and basin organisations, the conservation and development of data and documents necessary for the inventory and political follow-up

Objective 3	Initiate programme to support sustainable water use in agriculture and its integrated management for sensitive water ecosystems
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Output 3.1. Assessment of impacts of irrigation and other agricultural practices on sensitive water ecosystems and measures of mitigation elaborated

The objective is to develop a baseline assessment as regards the use of water in agriculture in the Mediterranean basin, and their effects on water related ecosystems (wetlands and their respective catchments / river basins). This is expected to provide a good knowledge base as regards the economic and social benefits that result from the decisions made and the practices applied for the use of water in agriculture in support of rural development, while at the same time allowing to identify the root causes for the impacts on water ecosystems.

It is expected that this will formulate the baseline for the launching of a full-scale project in the Mediterranean basin, starting from the sub-regions mostly affected by aridity (i.e. South and East Mediterranean). Such a project will aim at implementing actions along priority themes defined in the countries of the region and in particular IWRM application, policy orientation and capacity building, research, training and field applications.

Output 3.2. Local dialogues on water, agriculture and environment interaction in South & East Mediterranean organised

Two (2) ecologically important areas (wetlands and their catchments) in the South and East Mediterranean will be identified and local dialogues on the interaction of water, agriculture and environment will be organised. In organising these dialogues, wetlands serve as testing laboratories on which all the effects of the chain of decision-making and practical applications within the catchments for using water in agriculture finally impact.

The main aim of the local dialogues will be to assess in which way the use of water in agricultural practices affects in both negative and positive ways the ecological and socio-economic status of the area. The dialogues will entail a set of work axes like application of the IWRM principles, improvement of rural livelihoods around areas like wetlands, research and assessment of effects and development of inventory methods for collection of relevant data, and development and application of mitigation practices. Such experience gained at a local level constitute a major input for developing a regional action that does take into account the real socioeconomic conditions and needs, while at the same time assessing in practical terms the effects on the environment. Finally, the broad involvement of local people, regional and central decision makers and a large forum of expertise allows to build in practice a long term effort for the implementation of activities.

Objective 4	Strengthen underlying institutions and build capacity
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Output 4.1: Supporting and strengthening water institutions.

It is widely recognised that the water crisis is a crisis of governance. To achieve good governance for water it is necessary to create an enabling environment which facilitates the following: efficient private and public sector initiatives; a regulatory regime which allows clear transactions between stakeholders in a climate of trust; and shared responsibility for safeguarding river and aquifer resources whose management affects many people but at present is often the responsibility of none. Among others, actions to make water governance effective include: reform, development putting into practice of institutions and reconsidering financial and economic practices. Effective water governance should help to avoid the frequent mismatch between central government policies and priorities on one hand and people’s concerns and aspirations, on the other. More transparency and accountability, active public participation and better social, environmental and economic links are needed to make governance more effective.

An attempt would be made to systematically match needs for institutional development in the water sector with sources of support. Attention would be given to exploring the potential for ‘South-South’ development in South & East Mediterranean with EU support, resulting in triangular cooperation projects. Emphasis would be given on countries that have partially developed policy and institutional frameworks. In addition, actions to raise programmatic profile of water in PRSPs and NSSDs of partner countries would be considered.

In countries of SE Europe emphasis would be given in adapting their institutions and regulatory frameworks to the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive. The willingness of governments of the various countries to collaborate in improving their governance is critical.

Identification of specific activities within the Output is pending and it would depend at large on the funding available. It is recognised that since *substantial financing is required for activities involved, only pilot or cross cutting activities could be part of the present MED EUWI Activity Plan. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that financing will commence by interested donors (international and national).*

#### Output 4.2: Capacity on IWRM increased.

Increasingly, water professionals, researchers and policy-makers recognize the complexity of water resource management, where people, institutions and the society at large are the main actors in this process and their efficient interaction for better water governance is instrumental for achieving IWRM. Hence, building and sustaining local capacity within water and water-related institutions at technical, institutional, legislative and managerial levels, emerges as a cornerstone for promoting effective implementation of IWRM concepts, tools and policies.

In this respect, developing and disseminating capacity building programs through training material, toolkits or documents, which address specific concerns of a range of stakeholders, at sub-national, national and regional levels, present effective tools for accumulation, sharing and using relevant knowledge in the field. The level of knowledge in itself is crucial in the sense that knowledge asymmetry, where one group is more aware of issues and data than another, breeds lack of trust. Knowledge related to sustainable development and IWRM concepts can empower water practitioners and researchers as well as decision makers and planners and, hence, strengthen good governance in the water sector.

Capacity building activities could focus on priority themes like

- Agriculture adjustments for IWRM
- Water supply and sanitation within IWRM considerations
- Groundwater and IWRM
- Transboundary IWRM planning
- National IWRM planning
- Economic dimensions of IWRM
- Legislative and organisational frameworks

In addition, participative approach to management, though it is recognised as a key component of water governance and a principle for both effective basin and irrigation management, is still encountering barriers to its application. This is mostly due to lack of will, understanding, reference indicators and poor cooperation between users sectors. In order to address that, capacity building activities could also focus on targeted water stakeholder groups like

- Water Users Associations, particularly Irrigators
- River Basin Authorities
- Local Authorities and urban water managers

Objective 5	Improve coordination between the actors involved in water resources management at the country level
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#### Output 5.1. Inventory of building blocks and water projects clearing house established

A comprehensive survey will be undertaken of ongoing and programmed building blocks at regional, sub-regional and national level as a basis for gap analysis to identify where further support to MED EUWI priority themes and related type of actions is needed.

In parallel, a clearing house on water projects and programmes in the region will be established. A review of international initiatives supporting water management in the Mediterranean area that is foreseen to be elaborated by EMWIS in 2004, will be complemented by a systematic inventory of development projects on-going or already completed at the regional and national level. This review will be undertaken in close cooperation with donors organisations involved in bilateral or multilateral agreements as well

as with the national authorities in charge of water. The results will be publicly available through a web-based database with thematic and geographical access.

#### Output 5.2. Country dialogues for prioritization of national needs related to water ODA and identification of existing gaps facilitated

Country dialogues will be organised in all MED EUWI countries, aiming to facilitate a multi-stakeholder consultation primarily for :

- identifying gaps and emerging deficiencies in current priorities and implementation processes.
- identifying insufficiencies in key prerequisites posed by EU donors' for investments in the country

Moreover, the country dialogues would be linked with and assist several of the processes within the present Activity Plan eg. those related with Outputs 4.1., 5.1., 6.1., 6.2..

#### Output 5.3. MED EUWI information system set and functioning

A web based MED EUWI information system will facilitate the coordination and monitoring of activities in the area by providing a collaborative working infrastructure between all the stakeholders involved in the MED EUWI. It will also act as support for a broad and open dissemination channel to the various water communities in the area at regional, national and local levels.

The system will be set providing interactive access to various types of information and news, publications, shared calendar of events, electronic fora for discussion, etc. The information system could take benefits from the existing EMWIS facilities, including its National Focal Points and their information systems for the provision of localized information (more suitable for the local audiences). A MED EUWI e-newsletter would be also produced and widely disseminated.

Close collaboration will be established with other regional information systems in order to build interoperable services that could be integrated seamlessly in a global system covering the overall EUWI.

#### Output 5.4. EMWIS Focal Points in the SE European countries identified and engaged

EMWIS has already an established network in the Mediterranean countries. In order to respond to the entire MED EUWI geographical coverage, it would have to expand its system of focal points in some countries of Southeastern Mediterranean aiming to involve them in the process of sharing water knowledge in the region and building their national water information system acting as a resource center for their country. The Focal Points should be department of a public body with competencies on water information management. They will be identified in cooperation with the national authorities in charge of water.

#### Output 5.5. Communication strategy elaborated and launched

The strategy will provide advice on the proper communication of the MED EUWI concept and messages, as well as, on ways for raising its visibility in the Mediterranean and Southeast Europe. The study will focus on communication tools and products to be developed, target audiences to be approached identifying their specificities, strategic alliances to be sought and existing communication platforms to be used.

Objective 6	Enhance funding for the supply, management and development of water resources, and sanitation
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Output 6.1. Assessment and methodological framework for the financial requirements to meet MDGs / WSSD targets related to WSS and IWRM in the Mediterranean and Southeast Europe developed

The assessment will provide an estimate of the expenditures needed to achieving the MDG/WSSD targets while adequately maintaining existing infrastructure; these cost estimates should be derived from the cost functions based on the local cost and price levels. They should be divided by country and sector as relates to water supply and sanitation. A preliminary estimate of the costs of IWRM (by country) and estimate of the available finance for IWRM will be also delivered/

In addition, the assessment will provide an estimate of available supply of finance including: expected international donor grants and ODA loans from donors/IFIs, potential revenues from user charges, potential expenditures from public budgets, potential financing by private sector (debt, equity).

The methodological part of the assessment will be elaborated in coordination and largely benefit by the corresponding activity foreseen within the Africa Component.

Output 6.2. Regional and pilot national monitoring systems on progress to meet the MDGs / WSSD established

A regional system for monitoring progress to meet MDGs / WSSD targets should be established and be linked to existing monitoring systems at national and international level. The regional monitoring system would collect and analyze related data and report regularly to governments of the EU and Partner Countries as well as to the UN system. An evaluation system should be developed in parallel. The reports would become available for public use. Links will be established with the media.

Pilot monitoring systems will be established to as many countries as possible in the region, in close coordination with national authorities. It is to be noted that in countries of the region, data collection systems that are already established might not be able to respond to the norms of such a programme while standardization is always a challenge. Moreover, in countries of the region, some categories of water related data are considered confidential and are not provided for public use. Therefore, in order to establish an effective monitoring system it is evident that substantial financial support and effective coordination are required.

*Substantial financing is required for the proper establishment and running of Regional and National Monitoring Systems. Therefore, only the first phase of regional activities and national pilots are budgeted in the present MED EUWI Activity Plan. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that financing will commence by interested donors (international and national).*

Output 6.3. Donors' Coordination Conference for South & East Mediterranean organized

Harmonization of the ODA and other types financial support provided by the EU Member States and the Commission with regard to water resources development need to be improved. Based on the assessment on requirements to meet MDGs / WSSD target (Output 6.1.), the inventory of the building blocks (Output 5.1.) and the results of the country dialogues (Output 5.2.), a donors' coordination conference should pledge support to short and medium term actions to progress towards meeting targets set in the countries of South & East Mediterranean.

#### Output 6.4. Donors' Coordination Conference for SE Europe organized

Based on the assessment on requirements to meet MDGs / WSSD target (Output 6.1.), the inventory of the building blocks (Output 5.1.) and the results of the country dialogues (Output 5.2.), a donors' coordination conference should pledge support to short and medium term actions to progress towards meeting targets set in the countries of SE Europe.

Preparation for and follow up of Outputs 6.3. and 6.4. are expected to enhance also donors' coordination at the country level. EU and other donors normally have established contacts at the national level but coordination could be enhanced. One or two major donors in a country could undertake to lead and facilitate a communication channel or even a platform. Any such action should build and/or maintain a close collaboration with the country's government.

#### Output 6.5. Project preparation facility developed and functioning

There are several EU funding and investment mechanisms of different capacity and orientation / focus, for water related projects in the region. However, the majority of these do not have the flexibility to provide financing for small and project-specific priority operational activities which usually occur at the preparatory phase of a project's cycle. Such activities include: updating of economic studies, baseline data surveys, final project designs, revision of tender documents, Environmental Impact Assessments and studies on cross-cutting issues amongst other project preparatory activities.

Experience of funding institutions indicates that the quality of projects at entry depends to a large extent on the level of preparation in terms of validity of the appraisal documents. For that to be properly accomplished, a Project Preparation Facility would be established aiming to assist in preparing bankable projects. The Facility's activity would be restricted to preparatory activities of limited scope required to validate data and revise documents before project appraisal and execution. Even more important, the Facility should support capacity building activities to enhance capabilities of partners in project preparation and development.

The Project Preparation Facility could be supplemented by an Water Investment Information Centre that would provide organized and quality information on on-going water investments and available funding opportunities. The Centre would assist preparedness and capacity to access existing EU funding.

*Substantial financing is required for the proper establishment of the Project Preparation Facility and the Water Investment Information Centre. The implementation of activities under Output 6.6. is not part of the present MED EUWI Activity Plan but it is anticipated that financing will commence by interested donors (international and national).*

Objective 7	Transfer of technology and improve the use of existing and new scientific knowledge to achieve water-related MDGs
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*Only indicative activities are suggested and budgeted herewith. Italy has expressed preliminary interest for the related horizontal Theme. Further contacts would be made as appropriate.*

#### Output 7.1. National awareness workshops on access to water knowledge organised

Participation of water user communities in local water governance is an asset, but to be efficient such participatory approach requires transparent information channels. New information and communication technologies have proven their effectiveness for applications such as online democracy or more generally electronic government at local (e.g. for urban governance) and national levels. The implementation of the Water Framework Directive in

the various EU member states is facilitated thanks to on line tools (survey, pools, strategic document commentaries, etc.) complementing more classical dialogue activities.

Two (2) national workshops will be organized in selected countries of the South & East Mediterranean to review the information needs and requirements of targeted stakeholders and user groups and to ensure their participation in the development of public accesses to water information. It will result in a set of recommendations on potential use of new Information Society Technologies to improve access to water knowledge and participatory approach to local water governance.

Output 7.2. Transfer of results from EC RTD activities towards South & East Mediterranean countries facilitated.

The EC have been funding a wide range of RTD projects related to water issues that have and are still generating varied information and knowledge resources. Most of these projects are outlined on EU WI website set up by the DG Research ([http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/water-initiative/index\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/water-initiative/index_en.html)). The development of a more dynamic service to access relevant projects is also under preparation. But it will be necessary to localise this information (without duplicating it) in order to make it easier to comprehend by water stakeholders from the partner countries. This will be done through explanatory notes, taking into account the local culture and needs. A briefing document on the instruments available for the South & East Mediterranean countries to exploit the results of EC RTD activities will also be prepared in close cooperation with EC services.

Ongoing and completed projects will be analyzed to prepare overviews of EU funded RTD activities taking place (or completed) in each South & East Mediterranean country. These overviews will be published online and disseminated to public authorities of the concerned countries, international donors etc.

Finally, a preliminary mapping of the results of EC RTD projects with South & East Mediterranean countries would be established on the basis of existing information, i.e. results published by the EC and country needs expressed in their national strategic plans.

Objective 8	Promote education on water issues
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Education is a critical factor on which to sustainable development and also to peace and stability within and among countries is based. This has been recognised in various Documents (Agenda 21, Education for All, United Nations Millennium Declaration and Conferences (Jomtien, 1990; Rio, 1992; Cairo, 1994; Thessaloniki, 1997; Dakar, 2000, Johannesburg, 2002, Kiev, 2003). Without accelerated progress in Education national and internationally agreed targets for sustainable development and poverty reduction will be missed and inequalities between countries and within societies will widen.

Education related to water issues may be considered as part of Environmental Education as well as of Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). The Decade for ESD will start in 2005 under the auspices of UNESCO and a major part of it will be related to water issues. In the Mediterranean we have some of the pioneering initiatives on this subject (eg. MedIES).

Under this Objective emphasis would be given to

- Promotion of the collaboration (information and “know how” exchange) of partners involved on water education, at all levels, in order to strengthen the links between formal, non formal and informal educators and institutions.

- Exploitation of the existing knowledge and experience in educational matters related to water issues as well as of national needs, policies, methodologies and evaluations in order to fully exploit the differences and similarities between the Northern-Southern Mediterranean countries.
- Training of trainers (educators) through capacity building programmes in teaching, designing and producing innovative educational material related to water.
- Support of the schools of the region with relevant educational material on crucial issues for the region such as the management of freshwater.

Identification of specific activities within the Objective is pending and it would depend at large on the funding available. It is recognised that since *substantial financing is required for activities involved, only pilot or cross cutting activities could be part of the present MED EUWI Activity Plan. Nevertheless, it is anticipated that financing will commence by interested donors (international and national).*

### **C.3. Risks**

As main risks for the proper evolution and implementation of the Activity Plan 2004-2006, we could identify :

- Failure to mobilize sufficient funds to commence the process in a credible manner.
- Inadequate response from governments of the Partner Countries and key stakeholders
- Failure of key institutions involved in the management and coordination of activities to deliver.

## **D. MED EUWI ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE**

### **D.1. Structure and administration**

The success of the EUWI and MED EUWI relies on commitment from the partners and the development of strong stakeholder ownership. As a strategic partnership, the EUWI is open to all partners willing to commit to the objectives, targets, and guiding principles, having genuine willingness to work with others seeking practical solutions. Partnership refers to partnership between the EU and South & East Mediterranean and SE European countries as well as partnership between government, civil society and the private sector. Non-EU donors and international organisations (including the UN family and the IFIs) are also invited and encouraged to join the Initiative.

MED EUWI will need a light guiding / advisory structure to ensure and overview the multi-stakeholder participation in its activities, a decision making steering committee, a technical committee to secure scientific and internal review mechanisms and a secretariat support.

The EUWI and MED EUWI organisation is still evolving. Through the development and even first phase of implementation of the current MED EUWI Activity Plan, arrangements will gradually be formalised to allow greater clarity and transparency for decision-making and for cooperation between the various actors involved. It should be recalled that the EUWI is not a new institution but a time-bound process with specified objectives. As such, there is merit to allowing the organisational structure to evolve as experience is gained. The organizational framework proposed here is intended for the 2004-2006 but may be modified during this period.

#### **D.1.1. Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MStF)**

(TO BE REVIEWED ACCORDING TO THE OVERALL EUWI DEVELOPMENT)

*Following the concept of the overall EUWI, organisation at regional level is to be based on regional Multistakeholder Fora (MStF). The MStF offer a platform for dialogue and the co-ordination of the work of various partners and enable links between stakeholders.*

*The main scope of the MStF will be to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the EUWI in the region to facilitate progress and coordinate the efforts of the various stakeholders involved. The MStF will:*

- *Contribute advice and recommendations to the MStF Steering Committee on the annual work programme of MED EUWI.*
- *Review the implementation of the annual work programme on the basis of the MStF's annual report and of regular newsletters.*
- *Disseminate information on the EUWI and raise support for activities emanating to partners in developing countries; and serve as a platform to sensitise and attract potential new parties*

*In addition, the MStF also provides a framework for:*

- *Discussion and consultation with a broad group of water-sector and development interests on the design, co-ordination and implementation of the Initiative. Views and opinions expressed can assist the MStF Steering Committee and feed ideas and actions*
- *Fostering exchanges of best practice between the different regional components of the Initiative that can help to achieve the objectives and to develop the EUWI in a coherent and harmonised fashion*
- *Building trust and commonalities to harness joint action*
- *Actively contributing advice and experienced guidance to the MStF Steering Committee on all aspects of the development of the Initiative*

*Procedurally, the MStF agrees on its civil society representatives to the MStF Steering Committee on the basis of proposals from industry and NGOs.*

Initial partners from the European-side may include the EU Member States, the European Commission, European civil society, local authorities and the private sector. Governments, civil society and private sector of the recipient countries, the IFI's, the UN agencies and other relevant organisations and stakeholders would also become partners in this process from an early stage. The particular role of good coordination among the EU Member States and with the EU Commission, for the development of the MED EUWI is emphasized. Coordination mechanisms at a country level, bringing together involved stakeholders, may be considered at a later stage and according to capacity for such systems to be supported by national or international funds.

The MSF may meet twice a year or annually depending on the need. Some of these meetings would be linked with activities described in the Activity Plan. Detailed Terms of Reference for the MSF will be elaborated.

#### **D.1.2. Multi-Stakeholder Forum Steering Committee (MStF SC)** (TO BE REVIEWED ACCORDING TO THE OVERALL EUWI DEVELOPMENT)

*A Steering Committee will be established within the MStF. The principal responsibilities of the MStF Steering Committee would be to:*

- *Agree on a consensual basis with the regard to the strategic orientations of the Initiative for the year and recommendations arising from guidance documents*
- *Outline the priorities for the following year's annual work programme based on the planned contributions of the different partners*
  - *Deliver the strategic objectives and annual work programme of the EUWI agreed upon.*
  - *Prepare with the assistance of the Secretariat, the annual work programme of the MED EUWI, and the annual report to be submitted to the EUWI MStF for discussion*
  - *Monitor the implementation of the annual work programme*
  - *In this context, adopt practical decisions about the operating of the MED EUWI*
  - *Ensure proper co-ordination with the overall EUWI*

*Membership of the MStFSC will be decided at a later stage. It is suggested that it would consist of EU Member States and partner countries active in the development of the MED EUWI, European Commission (DGs ENV, DEV, RELEX, AIDCO, RTD), EIB, nominated members from MStF actively involved in the development of MED EUWI initiative. Invitees would also participate from donors (other than EU Member States), funding institutions (eg. World Bank, African Development Bank, Islamic Bank etc), UN organisations with an interest and active commitment in water development and management (maybe on case by case basis depending on the agenda).*

*MStFSC would meet three times a year or more as required by the workload.*

#### **D.1.3. Lead and Co-Lead Countries**

The MED EUWI Multi-Stakeholder Forum is chaired by a Lead Country. Greece has undertaken to be the Lead Country of MED EUWI. It is anticipated that Greece will maintain this role at least until the MED EUWI becomes fully operational and according to the needs and developments of the EU WI and of the particular regional Component. One or two Co-Lead Country(ies) from the MED EUWI partners will be identified in due time. Italy has

expressed preliminary interest for the horizontal Theme on 'Transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training on water issues.

The principal functions of Lead / Co-Lead Countries are the following:

- Organise meetings (invitations, meeting places and room reservations etc)
- Develop a work-plan and a division of labour to be agreed by the WGs in accordance with its specific Terms of Reference
- Ensure delivery of outputs complying with deadlines agreed in the work plan
- Ensure co-ordination with the MStF Steering Committee
- Report to the MStF Steering Committee on the work of the WGs

#### **D.1.4. Technical Committee (TC)**

*The Technical Committee (TC) acts as a group of experts assisting the MStF SC on MED EUWI development and programme of activities.*

*The TC:*

- *provides technical / scientific advice to the MStF SC and the Secretariat on major issues;*
- *provides quality control for products of MED EUWI;*
- *assesses the technical quality and effectiveness of the yearly programme;*
- *evaluates the general progress made in the implementation of MED EUWI;*
- *carries out any other specific task on the request of the MStF SC;*

#### **D.1.5. Secretariat**

A Secretariat will assist the process, through a light administrative structure. Its main role will be to support the MStF, the MStFSC and the Lead Country(ies) as well as to co-ordinate activities between and link together the different Themes. The Secretariat is assumed by the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med). The MSF and the financiers of the Secretariat will decide on its working modalities and staffing.

The Secretariat will co-ordinate and manage the day-to-day core business and functions which may include:

- to support the continued development and implementation of the MED EUWI,
- to facilitate co-ordination, communications and information exchange between the partners,
- to co-ordinate and oversee the commissioning of studies and reports on general issues of relevance to the initiative,
- to ensure a monitoring and reporting mechanism of progress against the goals of the MED EUWI,
- to represent the MED EUWI in and report to competent bodies and on-going related processes,
- to provide logistical and supporting functions related to the MStF, MStFSC and other related coordination MED EUWI meetings,
- to maintain in collaboration with EMWIS a public web-based database,

#### **D.2. Finance**

The development and basic running of the MED EUWI require financial resources which involve support for :

- implementation of the set of activities foreseen in the present Activity Plan 2004-2006
- establishment of links and start-up of additional activities within the MED EUWI scope

- functioning of the organizational structure and administration

Resources should be committed for the short / medium term and certainly for the period 2004-2006. Several of the activities foreseen in the present Activity Plan will be in the nature of reviews, coordination meetings, assessments, inventories etc. but also some pilot activities of demonstration character are included. These would provide the groundwork for more capital intensive activities, including investments to be financed by governments of the partner countries, ODA and private capital. As already said, the EUWI is not a financial institution but a facilitating process. The financial commitments resulting from the EUWI process can be expected to increase in future years but will still be modest during the coming biennium.

The financial resources for the first phase of MED EUWI activity could be borne from the EU Commission, EU Member States and/or other international donors who have already or anticipated to commit themselves to support suggested activities and functions or even propose more actions related to the MED EUWI scope. Support for initiating national partnerships in the partner countries could be also considered as an important activity to effectively move forward the agenda in the partner countries (this could be linked with Output 5.2).

Moreover, supplement funding could be considered for advancing elements and actions of currently running or recently completed projects through which these could effectively complement their results towards a more IWRM approach. In addition funding could be oriented to new building blocks within the MED EUWI as well as support could be extended to demonstration projects; these could be born through existing bilateral and multilateral funding mechanisms. The Component itself will not fund individual projects but it will serve a 'show window' or 'market place' where projects can be displayed.

As already stated, implementation activities entailing capital investment are not part of the present Activity Plan 2004-2006 though operational links would be sought. The EU Member States and the EC have already established process through bilateral programmes and agreements to support these.

## **Reference Documents**

African Ministerial Commitments on Implementation and Partnerships for achieving the Water and Sanitation Targets, Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference, Addis Ababa, 8-13 December 2003.

Africa – EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation: Outline Strategy and 2004-2005 Work Programme, Draft - version 09/12, December 2003 (including attachments).

EU Water Initiative – EC documents presented in WSSD, 2002

Operation Plan of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, final version, July 2003 (including attachments).

Portfolio of Projects and Programmes for North Africa presented at the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference, Addis Ababa, 8-13 December 2003.

Sub-Regional Report of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the North Africa AMCOW, 4 February 2003, Cairo.

Sub-Regional Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the North Africa AMCOW, 18 October 2003, Cairo.

Organisational Framework and Modalities of the EU Water Initiative, Draft – version March 2004





## Logical Framework Analysis for MED EUWI Activity Plan 2004-2006

Intervention Logic	Activities	Measurable indicators	Sources of verification	Leader	Duration	Cost
<b>Objective 1. Increase prioritisation for investment in water supply and sanitation for the poor</b>						
Output 1.1.	Baseline Assessment and Mapping on Water Supply and Sanitation and Poverty in South & East Mediterranean elaborated					
Output 1.2.	Local Assessments on Water and Poverty and facilitation of related follow-up actions in pilot South & East Mediterranean sites implemented					
<b>Objective 2. Initiate programme to support national and transboundary IWRM plans</b>						
Output 2.1.	Baseline Assessment of Regional and National Frameworks to Implement IWRM in the Mediterranean and Southeast Europe elaborated					
Output 2.2.	Baseline mapping and action programmes in transboundary basins of Southeast Europe identified and prepared					
Output 2.3.	Baseline mapping and action programmes in transboundary aquifers of South & East Mediterranean identified and prepared					
Output 2.4.	Baseline mapping and action programmes in countries of South & Mediterranean identified and prepared					
<b>Objective 3. Initiate programme to support sustainable water use in agriculture and its integrated management for sensitive water ecosystems</b>						
Output 3.1.	Assessment of impacts of irrigation and other agricultural practices on sensitive water ecosystems and measures of mitigation elaborated					
Output 3.2.	Local dialogues on water, agriculture and environment interaction in South & East Mediterranean organised					
<b>Objective 4. Strengthen underlying institutions and build capacity</b>						
Output 4.1	<i>Supporting and strengthening water institutions</i>					
Output 4.2	Capacity on IWRM increased					
<b>Objective 5. Improve coordination between the actors involved in water resources management at the country level</b>						
Output 5.1.	Inventory of building blocks completed and water projects clearing house established					
Output 5.2.	Country dialogues for prioritization of national needs related to water ODA and identification of existing gaps facilitated					

Intervention Logic	Activities	Measurable indicators	Sources of verification	Leader	Duration	Cost
Output 5.3.	MED EUWI information system set and functioning					
Output 5.4	EMWIS Focal Points in the Balkan countries identified and engaged					
Output 5.5	Communication strategy elaborated and launched					
<b>Objective 6. Enhance funding for the supply, management and development of water resources, and sanitation</b>						
Output 6.1.	Assessment and methodological framework for the financial requirements to meet MDGs / WSSD targets related to WSS and IWRM in the Mediterranean and Southeast Europe developed					
Output 6.2.	Regional and pilot national monitoring systems on progress to meet the MDGs / WSSD established					
Output 6.3.	Donors' Coordination Conference for South & East Mediterranean organized					
Output 6.4.	Donor's Coordination Conference for SE Europe organized					
Output 6.5.	Project Preparation Facility developed and functioning					
<b>Objective 7 - Improve transfer of technology and the use of existing and new scientific knowledge to achieve water-related MDGs</b>						
Output 7.1.	National awareness workshops on access to water knowledge organised					
Output 7.2.	Transfer of results from EC RTD activities towards South & East Mediterranean countries facilitated					
<b>Objective 8. Promote education on water issues</b>						
<b>Function of organisational structure and administration</b>						

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Annex 2. Regional initiatives for cooperation and partnerships on water issues

Annex 3. Call for Building Blocks and responses

Annex 4. Activities within the MED EUWI Preparatory Phase

Annex 5. Expression of political commitment for the development of MED EUWI during the Preparatory Phase

Annex 5.1. EU Informal Council of Environment Ministers, 3-4 May 2003, Lagonissi, Athens – Conclusions by the Hellenic Presidency

Annex 5.2. International Conference on “Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge”, 6-7 May 2003, Athens - Declaration

Annex 5.3. 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the “Environment for Europe” process, 21-23 May, Kiev – Extract from the Ministerial Declaration

Annex 5.4. Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 26-27 May 2003, Crete – Extract from the Presidency Conclusions

## **ANNEX 1**

### **Main problems and challenges within the water sector in the Mediterranean and SE Europe**

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## **Main problems and challenges within the water sector in the Mediterranean and Southeastern Europe**

### **1. The Mediterranean**

The Mediterranean, a water scarce area, lies on the cross road of three continents and it has been the cradle of major civilizations. The shared century-old experiences and diverse cultures have resulted to uneven levels of economic development and socio-political systems. The region is encountering a rapid, unbalanced demographic growth and increased urbanization trends, mainly in the coastal areas. At the same time, the Mediterranean region is rich in unique and fragile ecosystems which face development pressures.

Water supply in the region is unequally distributed in space and time, both at regional level and within each country (72% in the North of the Mediterranean, 23% in the Middle East and only 5% in the North Africa). According to Blue Plan, the Southern Mediterranean and Middle East sub-regions have among the lowest per capita amount of water supply in the world. It is estimated that 7% of the entire Mediterranean population (28 million persons) lie below the poverty line of 500 m<sup>3</sup>/year per capita and another 29% (115 million persons) are below the threshold of 1000 m<sup>3</sup>/year per capita. In certain countries, exploitation indexes of renewable natural fresh water resources have reached 100%. The intensive extraction and use of water for domestic, agricultural and industrial purposes, without proper provisions for the protection of the resource, has led to serious water pollution of surface and ground water bodies. Agriculture consumes 70-80% of water in the Mediterranean countries. Many countries in the region are currently in a stage of institutional reform, orienting priorities and practices towards an IWRM approach.

Table 1 provides a brief analysis of major water related problems in the Mediterranean sub-regions while Table 2 gives a summary of possible fields of action and examples for existing possibilities for sustainable water management (*Source: Mediterranean Framework for Action, MEDTAC/GWP, 2000*). It is evident that the tables are not exhaustive while more issues and eventual solutions could be added.

Among recent major plans of action and recommendations we should make reference to:

- Euro-Mediterranean Plan of Action on Integrated Local Water Management, Turin, 1999.
- Recommendations on Water Demand Management of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (Frejus and Fiuggi outcomes), 1997 and 2002.
- 'Vision to Action Process' for Water in the Mediterranean (Vision, Framework for Action, Core for Action Plan) of GWP-Med, 1999-2001. It should be mentioned that within this process sub-regional FFAs have been elaborated.

It is interesting to note that at least 15 regional action plans for achieving sustainable water management have been presented over the last decade by different organizations. A synthesis of these action plans and recommendations was elaborated in the *Core for Action Plan* prepared by GWP-Med in 2001, aiming not to draft yet another plan, but rather to identify a common core where political support is more likely in the region and to use these as a solid starting point for successful consensus-based joint initiatives and activities.

It should be noted that all the aforementioned action plans have been developed before WSSD and there is an emerging need for proper adaptation of their orientation according to decisions taken and targets agreed in Johannesburg.

Recently (at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, Kyoto Japan, 16-23 March 2003), the World Bank has presented the draft document on water policy reforms in the Middle East and North Africa, entitled 'From scarcity, through reform, to security'.

An overall assessment of the current status of progress towards IWRM of the countries of South & East Mediterranean and their readiness to respond to IWRM challenges, elaborated by GWP-Med and CEDARE, is also presented in Tables 3-6.

**Table 1. Brief analysis of major water related problems in the Mediterranean**

	<b>LEVEL OF EXPLOITATION OF WATER RESOURCES AND TRENDS</b>	<b>ROLE OF AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>WATER QUALITY AND ECOSYSTEMS</b>	<b>WATER DEMAND MEASURES</b>	<b>DESALINATION AND WASTEWATER</b>	<b>INSTITUTIONS AND LEGAL SYSTEM</b>	<b>REALLOCATION ISSUES</b>	<b>OTHER ISSUES</b>
<b>NORTH AFRICA</b>	High level of exploitation and overabstraction of groundwater leading to salt-water intrusion. Major deficits of drinking water supply in rural areas of some countries (e.g. Morocco, Egypt)	Important contributor to GDP in most countries. Provides high levels of employment. Expansion of irrigated areas is in the agenda. Modernisation is needed	Little information. Increasing concern	Not widely applied. Problems with the implementation of price schemes. Tunisia has got examples of successful water demand management.	Still a small contributor to total water supply. Desalination is being used in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya.	The institutional legal framework for IWRM is in place in many countries. Improvement in the efficiency of some institutions is needed. Need for effective enforcement of the law and regulations	Water savings in agriculture could be reallocated in other areas where there is competition for the resource.	A key challenge is the effective functioning of the water services in urban areas. Need for educational, institutional and financial support. Strong state budget deficit control is a reality.
<b>ISLANDS</b>	Full exploitation and overabstraction of groundwater. Some islands depend on transported water at high prices and suffer from shortages.	The importance varies with size of Island. Little reduction of water allocated to irrigation. Technical improvements are being put in place for some years.	Little information. Increasing concern	Implemented in some islands (Cyprus). Problems with the implementation of price schemes. Successful combination of incentives (economic, legal, education...).	It is becoming a major option for most islands, as Cyprus and Malta.	Fragmentation of the institutional framework common even in places where IWRM institutions are in place. Problems of legal indefiniton. User rights not clearly defined in some cases	Resizing the agriculture sector is in the agenda. More stringent water prices. More information and advice about risks is necessary	Need for increased co-ordination of institutions. Need for effective integration of stakeholders and water users.
<b>NORTH MEDITERANEAN</b>	No overexploitation, except in East Spain and South Italy. Overinvestments and expensive solutions for water supply would need to be avoided. South Europe countries face shortages in coastal areas, aggravated by the affluence of tourists and irrigation practices	Agriculture is not a large contributor to GDP but responsible of high consumption of water in South European countries (Spain, Italy, Greece and Turkey). The other countries do not use largely irrigation. It is now increasing in France.	They come mainly from the lack of adequate wastewater treatment, threatening underground and surface water resources and marine ecosystems, as well as wetlands. In water scarce areas quantitative impacts is an issue.	South European countries use economic instruments including conservation prices and markets. The rest are making slow progress thanks to the increase of water prices. Very often, population is totally unaware of high water losses.	Wastewater treatment is insufficient in most countries (except France and Italy, Spain and Greece improving fast), causing harm to ecosystems and ground and surface water.	Institutional framework is fragmented. Co-ordination mechanisms are insufficient and too complex. IWRM exists in most countries but in SE Europe needs long term management plans and strong financial support. Effective integration of coastal areas management is also missing	Resize agriculture, using its water savings for redistribution to other sectors is economically, socially and environmentally more feasible than in other regions. Markets are starting to be used.	Risk Planning is not sufficiently developed, particularly related to floods and droughts.
<b>EAST MEDITERANEAN</b>	High level of overexploitation of groundwater due to severe shortage of rainfall in many areas. High seasonal and interannual variations worsen the problem.	Small to moderate role of agriculture in the region. GDP but agriculture is the main consumer of water. Important water losses in irrigation	Decreasing quality of water as a result of industrial discharge and insufficient water treatment mechanisms. Problem of salinisation of surface water. Lack of adequate monitoring to measure the loss of quality. Quantitative impacts are being considered.	Water conservation pricing structures, promotion of water saving technologies, public awareness campaigns on the importance of saving water and programmes for reduction of losses in distribution are being implemented or are in the agenda of some countries. Some good practice experience in the region	Wastewater reuse implemented in the subregion. Desalination plants are widely used in Israel and considered in other countries. Potential of Wastewater reuse and substitutions of good quality water is increasing with increased Wastewater treatment.	There is a variety of organisations involved in planning, regulation, delivery, etc.. in many countries. Co-ordination mechanisms efficient in some of them. Need to reinforce regulatory functions and enforcement of standards. Some good practice experience in the region	Water savings use for reallocation of water. System of water periodically revised of water quotas in Israel. No permanent Water Rights.	River basins and aquifers are shared by more than one country creating conflicts of interest. High population growth in the area will affect water availability in the future.

**Table 2. Possible fields of action for sustainable water management in the Mediterranean**

	<b>INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS</b>	<b>WATER DEMAND MEASURES</b>	<b>WATER SUPPLY MEASURES-AVOIDING DISRUPTIONS</b>	<b>FOOD SECURITY AND MODERNISATION OF AGRICULTURE</b>	<b>PROTECTING THE QUALITY OF WATER AND AVOIDING ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION</b>	<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>SOCIAL, CULTURAL AWARENESS</b>	<b>WATER REALLOCATION</b>
<b>NORTH AFRICA</b>	Integrated water strategies (like Tunisia); Incentives to keep up-to-date professionals and retain them in the civil sector Improve co-ordination Need for financial support and improved financial performance; Increase regulatory role of government and implement delegated management. Enforcement of existing legislation	Improve transport of water networks Improve water recycling Improve efficiency in irrigation Adequate pricing of water for irrigation and domestic supply	Shared water resources Mobilisation of water supply Optimising water supplies Wastewater reuse Desalination	Agricultural and rural expansion Expansion of irrigated areas Integration in the international market Institutional reforms Water user associations	Information about life-support functions of ecosystems Budget allocated to maintain the ecosystems Tight enforcement of the laws	Drought management plans Flood prevention plans	Generate and disseminate information Political support Public awareness campaigns	Possibly of water savings in agriculture
<b>ISLANDS</b>	Facilitate integrated water resource management approach on river basin level Enforcement of existing legislation Ensure political awareness Basic information framework for IWRM Improve co-ordination Increase the regulatory role of Government	Technical efficiency Incentives for water savings Improve efficiency in irrigation Reduce water lost in distribution Public education Reuse of water Water pricing	Reuse of domestic treated effluents Use of lower quality water for toilet and gardening Transport of water from other areas Desalination and other non conventional Floodwater and protection of the environment	Proposals linked to demand management and changed role.	Regulations and tight enforcement of the laws Limit groundwater abstraction Industrial control and information Application of BAT Modernisation of industry Water and soil conservation measures hand in hand.	Data collection on droughts Adoption and monitoring of indicators Study on drought management Development of a legal framework	Promote community participation Co-operation in water management Dissemination of good practices	Develop integrated rural development and environmental policies Long term plans for water demand management. Research on more efficient crops Training and education to farmers
<b>NORTH MEDITERRANEAN</b>	IWRM enhanced where it exists and introduced where it doesn't Better co-ordination among institutions and decentralisation Improve legislation PPP	Increase water tariffs Economic incentives Study the potential transferable water rights Setting up markets for surface water	Reuse of treated wastewater Use of lower quality groundwater for gardening, etc Imports of water in big cities Reduction of water loss in distribution Aquifer recharge Avoid over investment	Progressive price increases on the price of water in agriculture Remove trade barriers in agriculture Promote water saving in irrigation Training to farmers on efficient water use	Reduce the generation of pollutants Use of clean technologies Tradable discharge permits Limit the use of agrochemical Emission limits Coastal area management	Flood and drought management plans Avoid occupation of flood prone lands GIS and other systems to forecast and controls floods and droughts	Campaigns to raise public awareness on water scarcity Educational campaigns at school	Relocation of water use through economic measures and long term plans
<b>EAST MEDITERRANEAN</b>	Minimise the duplication of roles and improve co-ordination Separate regulatory and supervisory bodies Delegate management of services. Improve financial performance Strengthen policy and planning capabilities Continue investing in skills	Increase water charges based on water availability Review and adjust tariffs Enforce and update legislation on rational water use Water metering Incentives to consumers for water savings	Reduce water losses Desalination is a major option to increase water supply Wastewater reuse Cloud seeding Harnessing storm water Protect surface water from pollution Surface water and groundwater storage Exchange experiences between countries	Reduce water losses in irrigation Use of wastewater in agriculture Modernise agriculture	Establish national monitoring systems and a central database Revision and enforcement legislation on water protection Control groundwater overabstraction and pollution	Water storage	Enhance public awareness through campaigns in order to control groundwater pollution and best practices in water use	On-going process in the region. Starting with water savings in agriculture. IN some countries there is no fixed water allocation.

**Table 3: Summary analysis of country readiness.**

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Egypt</b>	<b>Libya</b>	<b>Tunisia</b>	<b>Algeria</b>
<b>1. Raise awareness about IWRM and build political will to support the process</b>	Political will is high as there is support to initiatives for shared visions and regional cooperation on shared water resources. Awareness activities to users on water scarcity and pollution is on going.	Political will is high as It had issued an environmental protection law, a water well drilling law, and a protection of ranges and forests law.	Political will is high.	Political instability hinders the supporting process.
<b>2. Ensure a framework for broad stakeholder participation</b>	The establishment of the Egyptian Water Partnership (EWP) for dialogue between stakeholders on IWRM. Also, the establishment of water boards and water users associations.	Not yet.	The involvement of the Farmers Union in the formulation of water policies is high. It even has a say in the education system.	hydrographic basin committees or the so-called "Parliaments of Water" were created. They have to assure consultations within the basin, and are composed, equally, of: representatives of the administration, and representatives of the consumers (users associations).
<b>3. Overview of on going activities that the IWRM plan can build on</b>	IWRM plan is already developed. Framework for implementation is needed.	Assessment of water resources and identification of challenges. Preparation of a water policy to meet challenges.	The strategy of water resources development for the next thirty years is set to cover the different water requirements at a national level, taking into account all IWRM principles.	Creation of five basin authorities for IWRM in Algeria (1996).
<b>4. Identify and prioritise WRM issues and challenges</b>	IWRM plan identifies all water issues and challenges	Has been identified.	Has been identified through a number of studies and were taken into account during the formulation of the national water strategy.	Has been identified during the preparation for a national water plan.
<b>5. Identify WRM functions</b>	Identified.	Identified.	Functions are clear. The water resources, agriculture and environment sectors are managed by one ministry.	Outlined, but need to be clearly identified.
<b>6. Identify management potential and constraints</b>	Constraints are identified. Better coordination between the irrigation and water supply and sanitation sectors is needed.	Have been identified, with the preparation of the water policy.	A better coordination is required between irrigation, and water supply and sanitation sectors. The legislative framework needs to be reviewed.	Constraints have been comprehensively identified especially in the water supply sector.
<b>7 Prepare strategies and plans for IWRM framework</b>	A 'Water resources policies and strategies plan' is developed covering the period of 1997 to 2017 to integrate all the water related ministries' policies and strategies (i.e. agriculture, industry, domestic use and others).	A water policy is prepared.	The strategy of water resources development for the next thirty years, set up to cover the different water requirements at a national level, takes into account water quantity and quality aspects. It is oriented towards optimum use of the available water resources.	In 1993, the Ministry of Equipment, after an analysis on the situation of urban water and sanitation, initiated a large process of reform in the sector. After consultations with the main concerned sectors (Agriculture, Industry, local municipalities), a New Water Policy was adopted.
<b>8. Ensure adoption at the highest political level</b>	Can be achieved.	Adopted at the highest levels, due to the severe water scarcity conditions.	Adopted at the highest level.	Can be achieved.
<b>9. Initiate capacity building</b>	Is in good shape.	Organization of awareness campaigns to educate farmers on efficient irrigation practices is ongoing.	The education and research system has since 25 years supported the policy of hydraulic infrastructure development. It needs actually some adjustments to face the new challenges.	Training programmes were initiated in the early 90 's, with high level consultants, but stopped very quickly, due to the political instabilities encountered by the country.
<b>10 prepare portfolio implementation projects &amp; financing strategy of plan</b>	Already prepared and submitted to the North AMCOW interim Secretariat (CEDARE). Financing strategy could be prepared.	Prepared and submitted to the North AMCOW interim Secretariat (CEDARE). Financing strategy could be prepared.		Already prepared and submitted to the North AMCOW interim Secretariat (CEDARE). Financing strategy could be prepared.
<b>Conclusion/recommendation</b>	2005 target of IWRM plan likely to be met.	Support is needed. Stakeholders' participation needs to be adopted.	A good scope of stakeholders' participation and involvement.	High level of stakeholders' involvement on local levels.

**Table 3 continued: Summary analysis of country readiness**

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Morocco</b>			
<b>1. Raise awareness about IWRM and build political will to support the process</b>	Political will is there, but more awareness is required on IWRM processes.			
<b>2. Ensure a framework for broad stakeholder participation</b>	Will be acquired easily.			
<b>3. Overview of on going activities that the IWRM plan can build on</b>	The establishment of the national council on water is a very solid platform for the development of an IWRM plan. The plan for the establishment of a public-private partnership in the drinking water supply sector is another ongoing activity IWRM plan can build on.			
<b>4. Identify and prioritise WRM issues and challenges</b>	Identified within the national council on water.			
<b>5. Identify WRM functions</b>	Identified since a national council on water has been established.			
<b>6. Identify management potential and constraints</b>	Identified			
<b>7 Prepare strategies and plans for IWRM framework</b>	Ongoing.			
<b>8. Ensure adoption at the highest political level</b>	Can be achieved.			
<b>9. Initiate capacity building</b>	Capacity building programme in the water sector is existing, and will also be one of the elements of the IWRM strategies and plans.			
<b>10 prepare portfolio implementation projects &amp; financing strategy of plan</b>	Already prepared and submitted to the North AMCOW interim Secretariat (CEDARE). Financing strategy could be prepared.			
<b>Conclusion/recommendation</b>	A good scope of coordination among sectors.			

**Table 4: Categorisation of Countries according to assistance requirements**

	<b>Category A</b> <b>Country likely to meet the Target of 2005 on IWRM national Plans</b>	<b>Category B</b> <b>Country needs some support to meet targets</b>	<b>Category C</b> <b>Country needs substantial support to meet the targets</b>
<b>Egypt</b>	Water sector reform ongoing. IWRM plan prepared. Stakeholder involvement in the IWRM plan development, and continuous participation of the stakeholders in modifying and updating the IWRM is ongoing.		
<b>Libya</b>		There is a water policy and legislation prepared. A comprehensive IWRM plan needs to be developed. Key type of support required: human, and technical capacity, political awareness and stakeholder involvement.	
<b>Tunisia</b>		There is a strategy for water resources development for the next thirty years, which could be repackaged for meeting targets by 2005. Key type of support required: financial capacity, and more political support.	
<b>Algeria</b>			Water sector reform underway. Although IWRM plans are developed within each of the five basin authorities created in 1996, the process of developing IWRM plan on the national scale and in a comprehensive manner is just beginning. Key type of support required is: technical and financial capacity, political stability, political will, and stakeholder involvement.
<b>Morocco</b>		A national council on water has been established. This would be the very strong body to build and adopt the IWRM plan. Key type of support required: financial capacity, and more stakeholder involvement.	

**Table 5: Summary analysis of (East-Med) country readiness**

<b>Steps</b>	<b>Palestine</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	<b>Syria</b>	<b>Jordan</b>
<b>1. Raise awareness about IWRM and build political will to support the process</b>	Current occupation hinders the process.	Political will is high due to water shortage problems, but more awareness on IWRM processes is needed.	Political will is high.	Political will is high as seen from the importance given water demand management.
<b>2. Ensure a framework for broad stakeholder participation</b>	Impractical within the current situation of occupation.		Farmers participation is among the elements of the new plan for IWRM, however instruments for the implementation of participation approaches needs strengthening.	Public Private Partnership for water supply and sanitation has been tested in pilot areas. The experience with public-private partnerships in the operation and maintenance of the water supply and sanitation systems in Amman is improving revenue generation and enhancing operation efficiencies, as well as improved water demand management.
<b>3. Overview of on going activities that the IWRM plan can build on</b>	International assistance is needed.	The preparation of water legislations, and the institutional reform in the water management sector.	The current policy focuses on water resources development, demand management, pollution control, and on the Country Cooperation Framework (1997-2000).	The major policy changes which started in 1997, emphasizing water demand management and a major role for the private sector.
<b>4. Identify and prioritise WRM issues and challenges</b>	Identified.	Has been identified.	Identified during the formulation of the IWRM strategy.	Identified, with the realization that after the year of 2005 freshwater resources will be fully utilized with no more resources within the country to develop.
<b>5. Identify WRM functions</b>	Not identified due to political situation.	There is an institutional reform policy for the water sector, but coordination among concerned authorities is needed.	Needs to be identified in the IWRM strategy.	Needs more elaborate identification.
<b>6. Identify management potential and constraints</b>	Constraints identified.	Identified during the preparation of new water policy.	Needs more comprehensive assessment on the management potential.	
<b>7 Prepare strategies and plans for IWRM framework</b>	Not prepared due to instability situations.	Water policy is prepared, but IWRM principles need to be strengthened within policies.	Plan for IWRM for 1998-2008 is developed, with the support of UNDP.	A water strategy is adopted and will be supplemented with a set of policies and measures to help achieve its objectives.
<b>8. Ensure adoption at the highest political level</b>	Could be done when stability is achieved.	Can be easily achieved.	Can be achieved, since high level attention is given to international waters.	Can be easily achieved since there were other international water disputes that were given due political attention before.
<b>9. Initiate capacity building</b>	Initiated.	The establishment of a training center in the field of water resources is being studied.	Among the strategy objectives, is the technical capacity building of the institutions participating in the implementation of IWRM, through a wide range of training modules in different aspects related to water resources planning and management.	Efforts to enhance water research for water management are in place. Emphasis will be placed on liaison with international institutions to keep abreast with modern technological advances, and to facilitate technology transfer and adaptation.
<b>10 prepare portfolio implementation projects &amp; financing strategy of plan</b>	Some projects are prepared.	Prepared, and financial support from donors is sought.	Prepared, and the financial strategy could be formulated.	Investment portfolios for water and wastewater projects are prepared. External financial support is needed.
<b>Conclusion/recommendation</b>	IWRM plan could not be prepared under the current situation of instability.	Target could be met with minimum support.	IWRM plan likely to be developed with stakeholders participation.	Good scope for the development of IWRM plan by 2005.

**Table 6: Categorisation of Countries according to assistance requirements**

	<b>Category A</b> Country likely to meet the Target of 2005 on IWRM national Plans	<b>Category B</b> Country needs some support to meet targets	<b>Category C</b> Country needs substantial support to meet the targets
<b>Palestine</b>			International backing is needed for revitalizing the peace talks and the peace process. Henceforth, attention could be given to development and welfare of the Palestinian people. At the moment the 2005 target of developing IWRM plan is unrealistic.
<b>Lebanon</b>		Water sector reform ongoing. Water legislations prepared. Key type of support required: financial capacity, and stakeholders' involvement in the IWRM plan development process.	
<b>Syria</b>		Water sector reform ongoing. IWRM plan developed with the help of the UNDP. Key type of support required: financial capacity, and stakeholders' involvement in the development process of the IWRM plan.	
<b>Jordan</b>	A water strategy is adopted and will be supplemented with a set of policies and measures to help achieve its objectives. Need to mainstream IWRM issues into water reform process. Key type of technical support is required to put current strategy in IWRM terms.		

## 2. Southeastern Europe

The present state of the quality of the waters of SE Europe varies significantly from place to place while a series of problems have been identified by the European Environment Agency (EEA).

Water pollution in the region of SE Europe is a common problem due to inputs from urban centres, several of which have no or have inadequate wastewater treatment plants, from agriculture, industry and mining. Pollution is evident not only in rivers, lakes and surface waters in general but also in ground waters pollution affects in a number of cases natural ecosystems and the quality of drinking waters.

Agriculture in the region consumes high percentage of the available water and contributes through runoff to diffuse pollution by nutrients, pesticides and other agrochemicals. It is noteworthy that the use of commercial fertilizers decreased considerably in the region in the 1990's partly due to reduction of agricultural activities related to transitions in economy. This has led to considerable decrease of phosphorus and, to a lesser extent, nitrogen loads to rivers, lakes and reservoirs and improvement in the quality of several water bodies. However, still eutrophication phenomena are not uncommon contribution to erosion of biodiversity and with undesirable ecological and economic consequences.

High concentrations of nitrates in ground waters are observed in parts of the region although, in general, the concentrations recorded are lower than those found in some west European areas with very intensive agriculture. Untreated urban wastewaters also contribute to high organic carbon loads to surface waters and high biological oxygen demand. It is estimated that some 85% of urban areas and 15-20% of rural are connected to sewerage systems but not more than 25% of the population is connected to networks serviced by some type of wastewater treatment plants many of which do not function well. In some cases, the sewerage systems are very poor and they may cause various microbial contaminations. Industrial effluents have been reduced significantly due to closing down of many factories. Nevertheless, there are still considerable inputs of hazardous substances including heavy metals from mining and manufacturing activities.

Access to water supply networks is high in the cities (over 90%) but not so high in rural areas (about 50%). However, drinking water quality is still of major concern for many cities of the region due, on the one hand, to chemical pollution of the parent waters used for the production of drinking water and, on the other, to frequent microbial contamination of drinking water supplies.

It is noteworthy that groundwater is the major source of drinking water in the region sometimes without pretreatment. Therefore, the maintenance of a good state of ground waters in terms of quality and quantity is crucial. Over exploitation of groundwater resources and consequent water table depletion is not uncommon leading eventually to salt water intrusion in coastal aquifers, damages to wetlands and several other phenomena some of which are not reversible while others are (e.g. the recovery of karstic ground waters in Transdanubia). In many cases, human activities such as excessive use of agrochemicals, contamination by leakage from sewers or from landfills, excessive water abstraction, land sealing etc. affect the quality and quantity of this valuable resource which in several cases may be also shared between countries.

The points of competition over internationally shared groundwater and aquifers are not always obvious and may only become apparent when exploitable groundwater has been exhausted or damaged beyond economic "remediation". In cases of considerable economic disparity between neighboring countries, the ability of one country to tap a common property

resource from another by virtue of its financial and technological strength, may result in a more or less deliberate “race to the pump house”.

In many instances, patterns, ignoring the physical and environmental limits or carrying capacities of the aquifer systems, drive the groundwater use. This is particularly the case where agricultural and land use policies have short-term distributional or economic objectives.

As for the water demand, it is clear that in the majority of the countries in SE Europe, water abstraction for agriculture and industry decreased over the last decade due to the impacts of economic transition and the reduction of the relevant activities. A marked decrease was also observed in abstractions for public water supply for housing and reduction in the amount of water used. This is partly due to the fact that under the new economic conditions, water companies increased the price of water and install water meters in houses. Despite certain improvements, the water supply networks in most countries of the region are still obsolete and losses in distribution still lead to high abstractions to meet demand.

Tourism during summer often presents an important pressure on freshwaters, increasing several times the water demand, particularly on islands and the driest coastal regions. Water transports and transfers, which may create tensions, often address these pressures and other problems in the areas affected.

Although some islands and few of the countries of SE Europe have as little runoff as 160 mm per year, the average for the region is high and only small parts of it could be characterized as water stressed. However, even countries with very high runoff (more than 1,700 mm per year) such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro, depend mainly on external resources indicating the urgency to properly address the transboundary and cross-boundary water issues in the region. From the approximately 150 major transboundary rivers of Europe that form or cross borders between two or more countries and the 25 transboundary lakes and 100 transboundary aquifers it is estimated that approximately 1/8 are located in the SE European region.

Recently, the World Bank presented a draft paper on ‘Water Resources Management in SE Europe’ in which several of the aforementioned problems are dealt with while some case studies are included. The paper was one of the key background documents of the International Conference on “Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge”, 6-7 May 2003, Athens, jointly organized by Greece and the World Bank.

The draft recommendations for action in the World Bank paper includes:

<b>Level</b>	<b>Short Term Priorities (1 to 2 years)</b>	<b>Medium Term Priorities (3 to 5 years)</b>
National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify responsibilities and improve cooperation between agencies</li> <li>• Expand rehabilitation of infrastructure, including demand management measures</li> <li>• Develop poverty focused programmes (rural water supply and watershed management)</li> <li>• Promote the role of civil society</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop water resources management policies</li> <li>• Strengthen water resources management agencies</li> <li>• Analyze trade-offs</li> <li>• Improve information systems</li> <li>• Expand investment programs</li> <li>• Develop innovative funding methods</li> </ul>
Transboundary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop cooperation arrangements for small basin and lakes</li> <li>• Prepare management plans and projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement action plans and projects</li> <li>• Expand funding mechanisms for externalities</li> </ul>

**ANNEX 2**

**Regional initiatives for cooperation and partnerships on water issues**

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## **Regional initiatives for cooperation and partnerships on water issues**

It is difficult to present an ample overview of the on-going and planned activities in the region. At the same time, there is a great variety in objectives, criteria and procedures of the different donor programmes. A brief account of major existing processes is presented herewith.

### **B.3.1. The Mediterranean**

The Mediterranean has a tradition in cooperation and networking schemes, many of which address issues of sustainable development, environmental protection and management of natural resources. Water is a defined priority in the majority of related regional processes eg. the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) within it, etc.

Major investment on water infrastructure in the Mediterranean countries has been made through bilateral and multilateral agreements. The EU Member States and the Commission are among the major donors in the region, including support to water sector, constituting a major force towards economic growth and transition.

The Directorates General (DGs) of the EU Commission directly supporting Mediterranean water projects are:

- DG Europe Aid Cooperation(AidCo), with
  - the MEDA Euro-Mediterranean Regional Programme for Local Water Management,
  - bilateral assistance in a limited number of Mediterranean countries (eg. Morocco, Jordan)
  - activities being part of the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) under which a Multilateral Water Resources Working Group is active. Such activities comprise EXACT, a technical water working group composed of representatives of the three Core Parties of MEPP (Israel, Palestinian Authority, Jordan) and donors (EU, USA, Canada, France, Netherlands), the Middle East Desalination Research Centre (MEDRC) and the European Desalination Society (EDS).
- DG Environment, with
  - the Short and Medium Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP),
  - the LIFE Programme - Third Countries,
    - DG Research, with programmes like INCO-MED
    - DG REGIO, with projects in the MEDA Partners Countries

Tools and utilities have been developed to assist the process, like the Euro-Mediterranean Water Information System (EMWIS). In the interest of pursuing the objectives of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Meeting in Turin (1999), a Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum was established, facilitated by DG AidCo.

Several EU Member States have bilateral agreements with specific Mediterranean countries of North Africa and the Middle East supporting water projects through ODA. It is roughly estimated that the ODA from EU countries is at the level of spending made through the EU Commission and it is mainly directed to Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority and Turkey. A basic survey and analysis of the ODA flows in the Mediterranean is foreseen within the second semester of the Preparatory Phase.

The Mediterranean EU Member States (France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Spain) have an active role in the region and participate in all related processes.

Recently, the Finance Ministers of the 15 EU Member States and the 12 Mediterranean Finance and Economy Ministers of the Partner Countries (MPC) launched a new Facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment Partnership (FEMIP), facilitated by the European Investment Bank (EIB).

At the same time, other mechanisms are supporting water activities in the region, like the World Bank (MENA Water Initiative, METAP), UN bodies, USAID, JICA, CIDA, other international organizations, etc. The private sector plays also an increasingly important role on water issues that should not be neglected in the overall assessment and process.

Special reference should be made to the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) which, directly and indirectly, influences to a certain extent the policies and strategies of accession and other neighboring countries which share with the EU transboundary waters and/or have bilateral and multi-lateral agreements with it. The 'enlargement' of the impact of the EU WFD's principles, procedure and best practices, where and if applicable and after proper adaptation, should be considered as a useful background for the MED EUWI.

In addition, the shared objective of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership of creating a Mediterranean Free Trade Zone until 2010 should act as a key factor contributing to integration and modernization of economic, social and administrative systems. Rationalization and, to a certain extent, standardization of interventions and application of common principles on resources management, including water, should be considered in facilitating and expanding this process.

The Mediterranean Action Plan of UNEP (MAP/UNEP) and the Athens based Coordination Unit plays an important role in the region's orientation towards the protection of the environment and promotion of sustainable development, facilitating the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols. Freshwater resources issues are mostly dealt by the Blue Plan and PAP/RAC and they are also tackled by a special Task Force acting in the framework of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development.

Partnerships have been developed at various levels (governmental and multi-stakeholder) in the region enhancing cooperation and promoting common action, like CEDARE, CIHEAM and thematic/sectoral networks like CEIR (irrigators), IME (professionals), CEREE (regional authorities), MedCities (local authorities), MedWet (wetlands), MENBO (river basin organisations), MESAEP (scientists), MIO-ECSDE (NGOs), MWN (water directors), etc. The Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) has provided a cooperation platform on water where most of the aforementioned networks participate actively, together with the Blue Plan of MAP/UNEP and EMWIS.

### **B.3.2. Southeastern Europe**

Management of transboundary water aquifers is of key importance for SE Europe. One of the first agreements on water in the modern European history was the Convention of 1921 between Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Romania and the Serbo-Croat-Slovene State, defining the statute of the Danube. Since then not less than three dozens of treaties were signed concerning Danube or parts of it, including the 1994 Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube, cosigned by the European Union.

For many other water bodies of the region among which the Lake Prespa, Vardar/Axios river, Maritsa/Evros river, Nestos river, Struma/Strimon river, Lake Dojran etc. treaties have been signed between riparian countries and joint committees have been formed. However, apart from Danube and a few other treaties where progress is visible, in most other cases serious problems and lack of resources have not allowed for any significant result.

Enhancing scientific and technical capacities and strengthening administrative and institutional structures to properly address the management of transboundary waters is a definite priority for the region.

Relevant conventions of interest for the water of SE Europe include the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes; the Protocol on Water and Health (to the Transboundary Watercourse Convention); the Convention on Wetland of International Importance and Waterfowl Habitats; the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UNEP Conventions (a) for the Protection of the Black Sea from Pollution that includes provisions for protection from land-based sources. In its framework, GEF has supported a Strategic Plan of Action, important for the sustainable development of six Black Sea countries; and (b) for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea (Barcelona Convention) which after its revision in 1997 covers also sustainable development and has established the Mediterranean Commission of Sustainable Development (MCSDD) which has elaborated also recommendations for freshwater, and the recent Protocol on Civil Liability and compensation for damage caused by the transboundary effect of industrial accidents on transboundary waters that has been signed and adopted during the 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the Environment for Europe process (Kiev, 21-23 May 2003).

The EU and several international organizations developed useful initiatives, many of which are complementary. Among them, of particular importance are the following :

- The EU Stabilization and Association Process (Stability Pact) started in 1999 with emphasis to regional cooperation in order to facilitate the harmonization of policies of the countries of SE Europe to those of the EU. It is an important framework structure that needs further strengthening. Under this process, the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS) is the main vehicle for assistance with approximately 100 mEuro over three years for environment projects, including 8 mEuro for regional programmes. Transboundary waters could be supported by this limited fund. It is noteworthy that CARDS has been increased compared to previous levels. However, with current levels of grant assistance it is not possible to finance through CARDS environmental infrastructures. For this purpose, the SE Europe countries could take advantage of the currently available grant assistance offered by the International Financial Institutes.

A series of other initiatives have continued to develop in the field of the environment with promising results :

- The Regional Environment Reconstruction Programme (REReP) is the main EU tool for regional cooperation on environment coordinated by the Regional Environment Centre (REC) with the involvement of OECD and others.

- The Danube – Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS), for the rehabilitation of the water quality of the Danube-Black Sea basin, received support by the EU. DABLAS contributes to better coordination between the Secretariats of the Conventions on Danube and the Black Sea and other regional partners and beneficiary countries helping them to prioritize environmental investment projects and render them bankable.

- The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (based on the Barcelona Declaration) has water as one of its areas of priority. However, it does not include the Western Balkans in the beneficiary regions. It might be useful to reconsider the participation in the Partnership of countries which were not included initially due to political problems and obstacles that have been removed meanwhile.

- The funding instruments of the EU PHARE and TACIS support environmental activities in the Black Sea region (eg. Bulgaria, Romania, etc), in cooperation with GEF and other partners.
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the period 2001-2007 has proposed the development of a strategic cooperation for Danube and the Black Sea including investments and introduction of environmental policies followed by legislation and economic instruments for 17 countries of the wider Danube and Black Sea basins. GEF cooperates with many partners within and outside the UN family (eg. UNDP, WB, UNEP, etc.).
- The Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) promotes cooperation at various levels (governmental, parliamentary, financial, etc) and tries to stimulate joint regional projects.
- Several other activities and initiatives have been undertaken by intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations some of which touch upon water issues in one or another way. The EU or some of its Member States supports many of them directly or indirectly.

**ANNEX 3**

**Call for Building Blocks and responses**

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# **Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative**

**LEAD COUNTRY: GREECE**

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## **CALL for Building Blocks**

The European Union Water Initiative (EU WI) was launched by the EU in Johannesburg as a key contribution to the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD and in particular in order to help achievement of water-related Millennium Development Goals and WSSD targets providing a platform for strategic partnerships. The EU WI seeks to make significant progress in poverty eradication and health, in the enhancement of livelihoods, and in sustainable economic development. The EU WI also seeks to serve as a catalyst for peace and security.

The Mediterranean Component (MED EU WI) is an integral part of the EU WI and shares its overall objectives. The intention of setting up the MED EU WI was announced in Johannesburg and it is currently under its design phase, giving particular emphasis to Mediterranean and Balkan priorities, according to needs and strategies defined in partnership with governments, the Commission and major stakeholders. A Multi-stakeholders Working Group assists in the development of the MED EU WI, which is led by the government of Greece with the technical assistance of the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med).

The MED EU WI aims:

- to assist design of better, demand driven and output oriented water programmes in the region,
- to facilitate better coordination of water programmes and projects, targeting more effective use of existing funds and mobilization of new financial resources and,
- to enhance cooperation for their proper implementation, based on peer review and strategic assessment.

Key areas where the EUWI and MED EUWI could make a difference for water financing are likely to include:

- Promoting water as a cornerstone of sustainable development
- Raising the programmatic profile of water in the PRSP process
- Coordinating funding for water in a better way among the partners of the Initiative
- Linking together the wide range of financing ideas, networks and mechanisms that currently exist for water in the Mediterranean and SE Europe
- Supporting better project preparation facilities
- Supporting the elaboration of a wider range of models for water sector restructuring in addition to involving private sector participation by competent international operators.

The MED EU WI focus on the following Themes:

- Water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies
  - Integrated water resources management, with emphasis on management of transboundary water bodies
  - Water, food and environment interaction, with emphasis on fragile ecosystems
  - Non-conventional water resources
- while as horizontal Themes are identified
- Transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training
  - Education

A cluster of *building blocks* would assist in bringing different stakeholders with related activities under a common framework and co-ordination, aiming to provide an enabling environment for the development of the various complementary activities within the Themes. Moreover, a set of *demonstration projects* would assist the process by providing examples of best practices.

The *building blocks* may be networks, alliances or programmes and projects, which are either on-going, planned or under preparation. Where gaps in the *building blocks* are evident and where needs to fill such gaps are expressed, these could be addressed through identification of new building blocks. A *building block* may be large or small and it may involve partners from many or few Mediterranean and/or Balkan and EU countries or other partners.

The overall coherence of each of the Themes relies on the inter-relationship between the *building blocks* such that these reinforce rather than duplicate each other in achieving the MED EUWI targets and objectives.

The MED EU WI is open to all stakeholders – government, inter-governmental organisations, NGO's, academia, financing institutions, the private sector, etc. All potential partners are strongly encouraged to submit *building blocks* to the Lead Country of the MED EU WI during the design phase, as indicated here below.

Therefore, we kindly request you to report any potential *building blocks*, using the attached datasheet for *building blocks* that you or your organisation might be involved in. You are encouraged to pass on this request to those who you deem relevant. **The process of collecting and including *building blocks* into the Mediterranean Component will be launched at the Regional Workshop on the Development of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, on 20 June 2003, during the Hellenic Water Week (Athens, 17-20 June 2003) and will continue until November 2003.**

**Please send the proposed building blocks to**  
GWP-Med Secretariat  
c/o MIO-ECSDE  
28, Tripodon str., 10558 Athens, Greece  
T: +30210-3247490, -3247267, F: +30210-3225240  
E-mail: [secretariat@gwpmed.org](mailto:secretariat@gwpmed.org)  
Web: [www.gwpmed.org](http://www.gwpmed.org)

**MEDITERRANEAN COMPONENT  
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION WATER INITIATIVE**

**DATASHEET for BUILDING BLOCKS**

<b>Name of building block</b>	
<b>Recipient country (ies)</b>	
<b>Level of action (regional, transboundary, national / sub-national )</b>	
<b>Main pillar(s)<sup>4</sup> (1-6)</b>	
<b>Mediterranean partners</b>	
<b>EU/Other partners</b>	
<b>Main objectives</b>  <b>Please also attach a 2 page (max) summary describing the building block</b>	
<b>Implementation period</b>	
<b>Estimated costs (Euro)</b>	
<b>Financing secured from Mediterranean Partners (Euro)<sup>5</sup></b>	
<b>Financing secured from EU/Other partners (Euro)<sup>2</sup></b>	
<b>Implementing agencies</b>	
<b>Comments</b>	
<b>Further information</b> <b>Name (Contact Person)</b> <b>Address (Institution)</b> <b>Telephone</b> <b>Fax</b> <b>E-mail</b> <b>Website</b>	

<sup>4</sup> (1) Water supply and sanitation (with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies), (2) Integrated water resources management (with emphasis on management of transboundary water bodies), (3) Water, food and environment interaction (with emphasis on fragile ecosystems), (4) Non-conventional water resources, (5) Transfer of technology, transfer of know how, capacity building and training, (6) Education

<sup>5</sup> Indicate amount in Euro as well as the name of the funding agency(ies).

**ANNEX 4**

**Activities within the MED EUWI Preparatory Phase**

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## Activities within the MED EUWI Preparatory Phase

The following activities have been implemented within the period February 2003 – March 2004:

1. *Meeting with Ministers of the North African countries (sub-regional NAMCOW), 6 February 2003, Cairo, organized by GWP-Med and CEDARE* – presentation made and feedback received. The NAMCOW Ministers have recommended a set of actions for the sub-region within the MED EUWI.

2. *Kick-Off Meeting of the Multi-Stakeholder Forum of the Mediterranean Component, 17 February 2003, Brussels* – presentation of a Concept Note on the MED EUWI, feedback for the development of the MED EUWI received. The Minutes of the Meeting are available. Discussions mainly focused on the need to raise the profile of issues related to agriculture, environmental protection and food security and their linkages to water in the Region within the Component's work, on the lack of comprehensive data on financial flows to partner countries in the Region and the need to compile an inventory of previous and future/channelled ODA flows, as well as on the need to develop specific demonstrations and twinning projects for identified for river basins in the Region that would enable implementation of the IWRM approach on the ground level.

3. *Presentations at the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Water Forum, 16-23 March 2003, Kyoto, during the (a) 'Day of Europe', (b) 'Day of Middle East and Mediterranean', (c) Ministerial Conference* – reaffirming political will for further developing and implementing the EUWI and particularly the MED EUWI, awareness raising. Discussions during the Day of Europe where the EUWI and all its Components were presented placed emphasis on the common commitments of the EU and its partners: The EU needs to enhance coordination and increase financial and development assistance to the water sector and partner countries need to prioritise and include water as an integral part of their NSSDs and PRSPs.

4. *Presentation at the CSD Meeting, 28 April-8 May 2003, New York* – reaffirmation of political will, awareness raising. Progress on the EUWI and presentation of the concrete actions undertaken under its various Components and particularly the MED EUWI were discussed during the side event organized by the Commission on 28 April.

5. *EU Informal Council of Environment Ministers, 3-4 May 2003, Lagonissi, Athens*, – water resources management in South East Europe was one of the two major issues discussed. The Meeting was attended by the enlarged EU (25 countries), by the Ministers of South East Europe countries and the EU Commissioner for Environment. EU Ministers stressed the importance of promoting an efficient subregional cooperation in South East Europe and the Mediterranean by intensifying transboundary cooperation on environmental matters and encouraging common work on transboundary waters, using water as a catalyst and a means for conflict prevention. It was agreed that concerted activities on water that need to be developed in the Region should be in the framework of the MED EUWI providing an important formal support to Component.

6. *International Conference on "Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge", 6-7 May 2003, Vouliagmeni, Athens, organised by Greece and the World Bank*. Cooperation for the management of transboundary water bodies and aquifers in the South East Europe and the Mediterranean was the priority theme of the Conference, The Conference contributed in reviewing the knowledge base, in assessing opportunities and constraints and in shaping recommendations, with an emphasis on cooperation for sustainable development, peace and stability. The Declaration of the Conference is a substantial contribution to the development of the MED EUWI and it foreseen that its follow up activities, especially with regard to the assessment of regional and

national frameworks for implementation of IWRM in countries of SEE and the Med and the initiation of a specific framework program for drafting IWRM and water use efficiency plans for major rivers and lakes in SEE, will be part of the Component.

7. *5<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the "Environment for Europe" process, 21-23 May, Kiev.* The Ministerial Declaration of the Conference welcomes the initiatives of countries of SEE and the Med, in the context of the MED EUWI, to promote peaceful and productive cooperation by promoting IWRM approaches for transboundary waters. The EU Statements made during the Conference also included reference to the various aforementioned events related to the SEE and the MED EUWI.

8. *Presentation at the Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 26-27 May 2003, Crete* – raise of political will. The Meeting was attended by the Ministers of the Euro-Mediterranean and South East Europe countries.

9. *Preparation of an Operation Plan*, describing the context, basic content and proposed structure of the MED EUWI as well as the steps to be taken until the end of 2003. Within the Operation Plan, a Call for Building Blocks was launched aiming to collect by the end of 2003 a first pile of on-going and new projects that consist the start-up working platform of the MED EUWI. The Operation Plan was launched during the Hellenic Water Week, 17-20 June.

10. *MED EUWI Session during the EU Green Week, 5 June 2003, Brussels* – awareness

11. *Hellenic Water Week, 17-20 June 2003, Athens, organized by Greece and the Commission of the European Union.*

- 11.a. *Regional Seminar on the 'Implementation of the Water Framework Directive in the European Union and beyond', 18-19 June 2003, Athens*

The meeting shared experiences from the EU Member States on the development and implementation process of the WFD, as well as from neighboring countries of the region, which share transboundary waters and/or have bilateral and multi-lateral agreements with the EU. The meeting explored the usefulness of the WFD as an eventual model or target for other countries of the region to formulate compatible frameworks. The outcomes of the meeting assisted in enriching the knowledge base of the MED EUWI.

- 11.b. *Regional Seminar on the 'Development of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative', 20 June 2003, Athens.*

The Regional Workshop

- presented to an international audience the scope, structure and scheduled activities of the EU WI

- presented the achievements of the Preparatory Phase of the MED EU WI

- discussed an Operation Plan for the development of the MED EU WI

- elaborated on the different Themes of the MED EU WI, with expression of commitment, suggestions of concrete actions (*building blocks, demonstrations projects*) and development of synergies by different players.

12. *Meeting with officers of the EU Commission, 10 September 2003, Brussels.* The meeting aimed to review the current status of the MED EUWI and plans until the completion of the Design Phase and to discuss and identify appropriate means for making the MED EUWI fully operational within the first semester of 2004.

13. *Meeting with Ministers of the North African countries (sub-regional NAMCOW), 18 October 2003, Cairo, organized by GWP-Med and CEDARE* – presentation made and

feedback received. The NAMCOW Ministers have expressed their willingness to actively cooperate with Greece and the EU in order to raise the momentum concerning the MED EUWI, to support efforts for funds raising to finance activities within the MED EUWI as well as to cooperate in finding synergies and prioritizing needs for the sub-region within the Component.

14. *International Symposium of the Euro-Mediterranean Institute entitled "The Mediterranean issues: Water between peace and war", 5-6 November 2003, Paris* – Presentation/Distribution of information material on the Mediterranean Component

15. *'Water Days' - Regional Seminar on the Water Framework Directive organized by the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO), 10-13 November 2003, Valencia, Spain.* 123 participants from 19 countries attended the event – Presentation / Distribution of information material.

16. *Second Meeting of the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians for Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), 13-14 December 2003, Murcia* – Presentation / Distribution of information material. The promotion of the Mediterranean Component at national level by the MPs was included as a task in the COMPSUD Activity Plan 2004-2005. COMPSUD consists of 32 MPs from 13 Mediterranean countries. The Murcia workshop was attended by 21 MPs from 13 countries, 40 representatives of stakeholders' group, 5 international journalists and representatives of the local press.

17. *EU Council of Environment Ministers, 22 December 2003, Brussels* - Announcement by Greece aiming at expressing political will and commitment for further developing the Component, raising awareness among partners, informing Ministers on the progress achieved over the period Jan. '03- Dec. '03 and on planned activities for the future as well as stressing the need for mobilizing additional resources for achieving early and tangible results under the Component.

18. *Compilation of the first list of building blocks, January 2004* – following the related Call, 26 building blocks were received so far by a variety of stakeholders. The number and mostly the content of building blocks received does not allow for an in-depth analysis at this stage. It has to be noted that the initial approach regarding building blocks is under discussion and revision within the overall EUWI, fact that discouraged wider advertisement and promotion of the Call for Building Blocks to competent stakeholders. Nevertheless, the building blocks submitted constitute a valuable base for further and more systematic development of the approach.

19. *Continue cooperation with the World Bank* aiming to pursue implementation of the recommendations made at the International Conference on "Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared waters, shared future, shared knowledge" (5-6 May 2003, Vouliagmeni, Athens) with emphasis on initiating a programme for drafting IWRM and water use efficiency plans in the same area. A start-up project, which is also strongly linked with the Petersberg Process, and focuses on capacity building and information sharing for IWRM planning in Southeastern Europe, is in an advanced stage of negotiation with GEF IW:LEARN and would be linked with the Component's activities.

20. *Brief Assessment of water aid flows to the Mediterranean and South East Europe, February-March 2004* - the study will seek to elaborate on development aid and other financial assistance provided by the EU Member States (as ODA), the EU Commission, other development agencies and out-of-region donors, IFIs and Development Banks to the Mediterranean and Balkan countries and regional projects. This brief assessment that is being conducted in cooperation with the OECD (Secretariat of the EAP Task Force) using

existing tools and data (eg DAC Database) might be used as the basis for a more detailed analysis at a second stage.

21. *Development of the methodological framework for estimating the financial requirements for reaching the MDGs/WSSD water related targets in the region, February – March 2004* - through this task, the methodology for estimating overall financial requirements for reaching the MDGs/WSSD water related targets will be developed, in terms of a project proposal or ToRs. This framework/approach will provide the basis for a more in-depth study at a later stage. ToR for the project has been developed by OECD (Secretariat of the EAP Task Force).

22. *Activity Plan 2004-2006, Mid March 2004* - based on all the aforementioned products, the first draft of the Activity Plan 2004 -2006 of the MED EUWI is developed, describing the type of interventions to be undertaken, also taking into areas of possible donor interest. Activity Plan is built on a modular approach containing key 8 objectives (3 thematic and 5 horizontal) with specific outputs under each objective. Objectives include initiation of programmes on (1) water supply and sanitation, with emphasis on the poorest part of the societies, (2) integrated water resources management, with emphasis on management of transboundary water bodies, (3) water, food and environment interaction, with emphasis on fragile ecosystems as well as (4) strengthen underlying institutions and capacity building, (5) improve coordination between the actors involved in water resources management at country level, (6) enhance funding for supply, management and development of water resources and sanitation, and finally, (7) improve transfer of technology and the use of existing and new scientific knowledge to achieve water-related MDGs, (8) education. The draft Activity Plan that will be reviewed by the Mediterranean and General Multi-Stakeholder Forums also entails specific outputs / actions under each objective. Moving forward with the implementation of the Plan will rely to a great extent on interest from individual donors and Agencies/Institutes.

Aiming to raise awareness, the concept of the EUWI and the MED EUWI was also presented in a series of other regional and international events.

#### **Activities foreseen for the period March 2004 – May 2004**

1. *3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Multi-Stakeholder Forum of the Mediterranean Component, 17 March 2004, Brussels* - the Group will elaborate on the contents of a draft Activity Plan for the MED EUWI, will review progress so far and identify priority actions for the short- and medium-run as well as discuss on mechanisms for enhancing partners' involvement. The meeting would be held in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> Multi-stakeholder Meeting of the EUWI (16 March 2004) and the Member-States Expert Group Meeting (15 March 2004).

2. *Basic Mapping of Key Stakeholders and general organizational modalities of the Component* - complete an inventory of basic regional and national partners for the development of MED EUWI as well as develop a first draft of the ToR of the Component's bodies, elaborating on related references in the Activity Plan. Direct contacts will be made with partners and their engagement will be sought.

3. *Screening and Meeting with potential donors for the development of the MED EUWI* will continue, aiming to identify donors' priorities and possible funding sources for the support the MED EUWI activities within 2004-2006 and its basic administrative structure (running of the Secretariat, Multi-Stakeholder Platform etc.). Related *Donors Meetings* would be organized within the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester of 2004. In this context, collaboration with the EU

Commission will be of high priority in order to explore and pursue specific funding opportunities within existing frameworks.

*4. Organisation of and participation in side-events and partnership presentations at the 12<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission of Sustainable Development of the UN (UN CSD 12), 19-30 April 2004, New York, for the presentation of progress achieved under the Component to a wider audience, review set objectives for the next biennium, raise awareness and increase involvement of partners.*

*5. Meeting for the presentation of the Mediterranean Pilot River Basin Projects in the context of implementing the WFD, Italy, May or June 2004, organised by the EU Commission and the JRC - presentation of Component's Activity Plan and awareness raising among Mediterranean water experts.*

## ANNEX 5

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Expression of political commitment for the development of MED EUWI during the Preparatory Phase

Annex 5.1. EU Informal Council of Environment Ministers, 3-4 May 2003, Lagonissi, Athens – Conclusions by the Hellenic Presidency

Annex 5.2. International Conference on “Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge”, 6-7 May 2003, Athens - Declaration

Annex 5.3. 5<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Ministerial Conference of the “Environment for Europe” process, 21-23 May, Kiev – Extract from the Ministerial Declaration

Annex 5.4. Euro-Mediterranean Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, 26-27 May 2003, Crete – Extract from the Presidency Conclusions

**INFORMAL MEETING OF ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS  
2-4 MAY 2003  
LAGONISSI ATTIKIS, GREECE**

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE HELLENIC PRESIDENCY**

**South – East Europe towards Sustainable Development:  
the Water Issue as a key priority**

**Session of May 3, 2003**

*The aforementioned session was attended by the Environment Minister of the 15 EU Member States, together with those of the 10 New Member States, of Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey as well as of the countries of Southeastern Europe and Norway. All of them greeted with satisfaction the initiative of the Hellenic Presidency to call this joint meeting and devote it to the key issue of transboundary waters.*

The discussions among Environment Ministers indicated a common understanding on the following:

- South East Europe is a part of Europe of great environmental, cultural, socioeconomic and political importance. The region is rich in natural resources including waters, forests, minerals and biodiversity. It has, however, serious environmental problems and needs that require particular attention.
- The countries of the SEE region have repeatedly expressed their intension to align their future with that of the EU. For this point to be reached, considerable investment of efforts and resources from all parties involved will be required. From the countries themselves and their citizens and from the EU and its institutions.
- The Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) since its launch (1999) has provided to the countries of the region a political framework in which to pursue policy development and the necessary reforms with the longer term prospect of joining the EU. Under this programme the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilization (CARDS) is the main vehicle for environmental projects including regional ones. However in this framework regional efforts for environmental policy integration are still underdeveloped. The Regional Environment Reconstruction Programme (REReP), the Danube – Black Sea Task Force (DABLAS), and a series of other programmes and initiatives supported by the EU, its Member States and/or other parties are important and useful contributions towards the right direction, for the enhancement of environmental policies and their implementation in the region.
- A number of the most pressing environmental problems throughout the SEE region, affecting human health, the integrity of biodiversity and the potential for development of the region are directly related to water problems due to the poor management of water resources, conflicting uses, lack of planning, improper monitoring and uncoordinated policies at local, national and regional/transboundary level. Therefore there is a genuine

need for improvement of the quality of surface and ground waters and abatement of pollution for securing safe and clean drinking water for a considerable number of settlements throughout SE Europe. This should be part of a more general effort for Integrated Water Resources Management.

- Tensions over water issues were not uncommon between countries and subregions within countries in the SEE and there is a need to transform them from potential sources of conflict to opportunities for cooperation. This approach extends -far beyond mere agreement- on water quotas between upstream and downstream countries. Integrated Water Resources Management of transboundary waters offers a new attractive, viable option for a peaceful and prosperous future of the region.

The Environment Ministers in their interventions emphasized that :

- a) the EU being internationally the key player on issues of sustainable development, including water, has committed to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals on water, including the facilitation of third countries to prepare by 2005 Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency Plans and halve the people without access to clean, safe water and basic sanitation by 2015. To this end, the EU has launched in Johannesburg its important EU Water Initiative.
- b) for the proper implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, which provides a comprehensive regional water legislation, a translation into national law by the Member States is needed by 2004 and this requires a closer cooperation between EU and non EU countries that share the same transboundary waters.

To obtain concrete results for the SE Europe the following were suggested :

- the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) should be further utilized and its full potential be developed in the field of the Environment in order to enhance regional cooperation and facilitate the introduction of appropriate environmental policies and strategies and the establishment and improvement of management schemes which will be able to effectively protect the natural and cultural environment of the SEE countries. Countries of SE Europe should be facilitated to prepare good bankable projects for environmental infrastructures,
- new environmental investment for infrastructures should be geared towards compliance with EU environmental law. When they are funded by EU donors, investments should comply with the environmental *acquis*,
- water is a priority issue for the SEE and concerted action should be undertaken by the countries of the region in close collaboration with all relevant bodies and stakeholders,
- regional cooperation is necessary for approaching the issue in a comprehensive and effective way,
- the SEE countries should be encouraged to proceed in a systematic way with the necessary legal and institutional reforms concerning water by using the EU Water Framework Directive as an appropriate water governance framework,
- transboundary water bodies, including rivers, lakes, wetlands and aquifers are of outmost importance for all countries of the SEE region and their

management requires the drafting, acceptance and implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management Plans through transparent and participatory processes. The collaborative drafting of such plans could be considered as a concrete first step for regional cooperation in the field of the environmental and sustainable development,

- the EU Water Initiative could be used as an appropriate umbrella for such collaboration initiatives and its Mediterranean Component as a facilitator of interactions and mobilisation of human and financial resources from all possible actors within and outside the EU and the region. Twinning schemes and other forms of close collaboration used with success in other cases (e.g. in CE Europe) could be also employed and should be encouraged. In doing so the new initiatives should enhance and complement existing transboundary cooperation schemes, particularly between EU and non EU countries, fully utilising the experiences and results obtained and avoiding unnecessary duplication of work and efforts,
- the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership has identified environment and water, in particular, as areas of priority. However the Partnership does not include the W. Balkans. It might be useful to explore if such participation is useful for the countries of the region not included initially due to political problems and obstacles that have been removed meanwhile.

THE AFOREMENTIONED CONCLUSIONS SHOULD BE FORWARDED BY THE HELLENIC PRESIDENCY TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR LASTING PEACE: SHARED WATERS, SHARED KNOWLEDGE, SHARED FUTURE", 6-7 MAY, ATHENS, AND THE FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE "ONE ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE" TO BE HELD IN KIEV, 21-23 MAY 2003. THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED AT THE MEETING ARE INVITED TO USE AND PROMOTE THE CONCLUSIONS ACCORDINGLY.



**Hellenic Presidency  
of the European Union**



**World Bank**

**International Conference on  
“Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace:  
Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge”**

**ATHENS DECLARATION**

“Actions to Promote Sustainable Management of  
Transboundary Water Resources in the  
Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean Regions”

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

May 6-7, 2003  
Astir Palace Hotel, Vouliagmeni  
Athens, Greece

## **ATHENS DECLARATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION**

**Vouliagmeni, Athens, Greece  
May 7, 2003**

*The Conference adopted the following "Athens Declaration" concerning "Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge." The Declaration provides a framework for a longer-term process to support cooperative activities for the management of shared water resources in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions.*

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

1. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg during August-September 2002, the international community recognized that to achieve our goal of sustainable development we have to revisit, reorient and enhance our efforts at the international, regional and national level to promote peaceful and mutually beneficial management of our shared natural resources. Environmental security is at the core of a peaceful coexistence and collaboration between peoples. The development of a diplomacy for environment and sustainable development can promote cooperation on environmental issues, support alleviation of the looming global water crisis and contribute to poverty reduction.
2. The Summit recognized that a water crisis, associated with both the quantity and quality of water, is foreseeable in the future. It could affect every aspect of life, from ecosystems and the environment, to food security, to health, human rights and cultural heritage. Such a crisis could shape significantly the policies and politics within and among countries, which are at different levels of economic development; give rise to serious stress within countries; and may provoke conflicts at various levels. The WSSD Plan of Implementation includes the target for national integrated water resources management (IWRM) and water use efficiency plans to be developed by 2005.
3. In the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions, both surface and ground water resources are under various natural and man-made pressures. Since these resources often need to be shared among many users there exist risks for conflict as well as opportunities for cooperation and conflict prevention. To address these issues, the Hellenic Presidency of the European Union, acting through the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized jointly with the World Bank an International Conference on "Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge" focused on cooperative management of transboundary waters. The Conference was conducted in collaboration with the Hellenic Ministry for Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works.
4. The Conference provided a forum, during the International Year of Freshwater, to share lessons learned and identify the mechanisms that can be used to increase effective regional cooperation, promote sharing of benefits and assist in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Johannesburg targets. The organizers viewed the event as a sub-regional contribution to the ongoing global dialogue on water issues—a building block in the continuum Marrakech–Hague–Bonn–Johannesburg–Kyoto—of high level meetings on water resources management. They also noted the importance of the WEHAB approach of the WSSD, European Union Water Initiative and the recent Kyoto Ministerial Declaration. It was designed to provide input to the Sustainable Development Strategy for the

Mediterranean to be discussed at the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in Dubrovnik (May 14-16, 2003); the Kiev "Environment for Europe" Conference (May 21-23, 2003); and the G-8 Summit in Evian (June 1, 2003).

5. The Conference served as a platform to assemble leaders, experts and civil society representatives from the countries of Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean regions and beyond to share lessons learned and identify the mechanisms that can be used to increase effective regional cooperation and promote sharing of benefits from the cooperative management of transboundary waters. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the Athens Declaration, which provides a framework for a longer-term process to support cooperative activities for the management of shared water resources in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions.\*

## **II. CHALLENGES – SHARED WATER, SHARED FUTURE, SHARED KNOWLEDGE**

6. The Conference examined the challenges presented by the potential for international and domestic conflicts as a result of water scarcity and inadequate cooperation in the management of shared waters, and evaluated ways that these shared water resources can instead become a catalyst for cooperation—presenting an opportunity rather than a constraint for development. It also provided a forum to share lessons learned and identify mechanisms that can be used for better regional cooperation and sharing of benefits.

7. The Conference reviewed the experience with transboundary water resources management in three complementary areas: river basin management; lake basin management; and shared aquifer management. In addition, it considered long-term development trends, legal instruments and institutional developments in the concerned regions; these in turn were linked to socio-economic developments that can influence the broader setting in which cooperative programs for transboundary water resources management are undertaken. It recognized the importance of development of water resources for drinking water supply, sanitation, food production, water storage and renewable energy. The economic benefits of water resources management and development were seen as necessary for responsible growth and poverty reduction. The vital role played by aquatic ecosystems and their biodiversity received emphasis given their importance to sustainable development and nature conservation.

8. ***Transboundary Water Management.*** Transboundary water management activities are being undertaken at a number of locations:

- *Progress to Date.* Experience with transboundary water resources management in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions includes successful programs that have been initiated in a variety of surface water and shared aquifer management settings and which provide models for future actions. The Danube River Basin Program and the Nile Basin Initiative constitute good examples of broad based cooperation, while the Nestos River and Lake Ohrid provide examples of successful bilateral cooperation for management of a shared resource.
- *Major Challenges.* While progress has been made in a number of transboundary water resources management issues within the two regions, these initiatives need to be complemented by activities for the management of adjacent transboundary river basins, transboundary lake basins and shared groundwater aquifers. In many cases these

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\* This Declaration, as adopted, has not been formally negotiated under the established procedures of the United Nations.

activities should be combined with improved land use practices and integrated coastal zone management.

- *Important Linkages.* Measures should be taken to increase efforts for sustainable management of shared aquifers which are an important component of the hydrological system, giving special attention to improving the legislative framework for their management. Expanded efforts need to be made to link the management of river basins and groundwater with the coastal zone, consistent with integrated approaches to resource management.

9. **Shared Water** Improved management of shared water provides an opportunity to benefit cooperating countries:

- *Integrated Water Resources Management.* Transboundary water resources management activities can support comprehensive actions for policy and planning, management measures, investments of a variety of types and scales, and institutional strengthening and human resources development activities.
- *Preventive Measures.* Transboundary activities, at the policy, planning and technical levels, should include preventive measures such as water conservation programs or land use planning to protect aquifer recharge zones. Environmental impact assessments should be prepared for water management projects with significant potential impacts. The use of preventive measures is critical to address major management challenges linked to current and future social and economic development and in many cases are considered the most cost effective intervention. Major opportunities exist to incorporate such measures for water management, including the transboundary dimension, in the context of physical, economic and environmental planning processes. The precautionary principle, which support risk avoidance, can be used as an important management tool.
- *Curative Measures.* The use of preventive measures should be complemented by carefully identified and costed curative measures to restore water quality and aquatic habitats such as investments in wastewater treatment or wetland restoration. Often, these interventions need to be undertaken in a phased manner due to the high investment and operational costs involved, the limited access that countries and communities have to resources for capital investments, and the financial implications to users for meeting recurrent costs.
- *Use of Economic Instruments and Incentives.* The application of economic instruments and incentives, at the national and local level, was noted as a tool for effective water management. This includes the use of realistic pricing of water, especially for agriculture, in accordance with the “user pays” and “polluter pays” principles, with proper provisions to protect the poor. These measures, while challenging to implement, are necessary to internalize the value of water and reduce externalities that encourage irrational and wasteful use of water resources.
- *Water Conservation and Demand Management.* Balancing competing water uses presents a major challenge. Appropriate education and public awareness activities in combination with a wide range of technical interventions—including water conservation technologies and practices and appropriate, careful recycling and reuse of properly treated wastewaters—together with economic instruments such as pricing and incentives, will facilitate conservation of water resources and promote demand management among all major user groups.

- *Watershed and Flood Management.* Management and conservation of watersheds for river and lake basins and the recharge areas for aquifers remains an important area for transboundary cooperation. Flood management, especially in Southeastern Europe, presents a major challenge and opportunity for such cooperation, through coordinated actions such as forecasting, monitoring, and early warning systems, combined with appropriate management measures.
- *Ecosystem Management and Wetland Conservation.* Management, conservation and restoration of aquatic habitats and their biodiversity, especially wetlands, are increasingly recognized as cost effective preventive and curative measures for water management at the transboundary level; examples of such measures include establishment of protected areas and rehabilitation of degraded wetlands. Throughout Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean, a range of actions can be taken to protect these valuable ecosystems and to ensure that they have a prominent place in management programs. In water resources planning and water allocation processes, recognition needs to be given to the environment as a priority use category.

10. **Shared Future.** Effective management of transboundary water is an important element of a shared future:

- *A Role for Diplomacy.* The Conference noted that environmental diplomacy could be the cornerstone of a proactive approach and a policy instrument to facilitate dialogue between peoples, thus contributing to international and regional cooperation to support sustainable development and to avoid conflict. It is recognized that such diplomacy, at a variety of levels and using a number of mechanisms, could promote environmental interests and perspectives in the medium and long term. It could also assist in formulation and negotiation of bilateral and multilateral agreements concerning transboundary waters, within the wider foreign policy context.
- *Key Resources for Sustainable Development and Responsible Growth.* The effective management of transboundary water resources is necessary at the global level and central to sustainable development in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions. Actions should be taken in a coordinated way at the regional, national and local level by a variety of stakeholders to assure the long-term ability of these shared resources to support human and natural uses in a compatible manner. Water management is a pillar for responsible growth, a development approach that is receiving increasing support since it combines economic growth with social equity and environmental and social sustainability.
- *Changes in Attitudes and Behavior.* To meet many of the water management challenges in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions will require changes in institutional and public attitude and behavior. Management of these shared resources must place greater emphasis on making their use sustainable by involving citizens and civil society organizations and making water an issue for everybody.
- *Consensus Building.* The processes used for development, planning and implementation of transboundary water management activities provide mechanisms to support consensus building on shared objectives for sustainable development. Active and meaningful participation of a wide range of stakeholders will contribute to developing consensus on many aspects of such activities and facilitate their realization at the ground level.

- *Sustained Commitment.* Sustained political commitment and public support are necessary for successful management of surface and groundwater resources in both national and transboundary settings. Time and patience are needed for management programs, especially those focused on restoration, which require continuity and long-term time frames for visible results.
- *Resource Mobilization.* Realization of effective water resources management at the transboundary, national and local levels will require increased funding for the development of new infrastructure and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. The size of demands for investment, even with successful demand management and conservation programs, will require: funding from national and local governments; international financial institutions and donors; and through innovative financing approaches such as Public Private Partnerships (PPP) and Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) involving the private sector.
- *Broad Based Partnership.* Experience from within the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions as well as others identified the critical need for the development of broad based partnerships for success in cooperatively addressing transboundary water management as a key element of sustainable development. It is important that such partnerships be inclusive and provide opportunity for a diversity of parties including organizations, groups and individuals to bring their skills and experience together to develop, implement and achieve water resources management objectives.

11. ***Shared Knowledge.*** The development, dissemination and application of shared knowledge provides the basis for transfer and application of experience between parties and facilitates the identification and management of current and emerging issues:

- *Significant Opportunities.* Significant opportunities exist for development, dissemination and application of knowledge concerning both management of transboundary water resources and the broader legal, social and economic setting in which these resources are used by both people and nature. A multiplicity of institutions concerned with these issues exists in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions and greater use can be made of available skills.
- *Economic and Social Dimension.* The management of transboundary water resources requires full recognition of the complex linkages with planned and unplanned economic and social development. The approaches used for planning and management of transboundary water activities in the two regions can benefit from greater participation of organizations, groups and individuals with skills and experience that complement those of the parties more traditionally involved in these issues.
- *Emerging Trends.* The Conference noted the importance of recognizing and addressing emerging economic and social trends in identifying, planning and implementing activities for transboundary water management. The dynamic nature of population growth in many areas, significant population declines in other areas, changes in the physical distribution of population and the expansion of demand for water in rapidly growing coastal communities all provide examples of the major challenges facing planners and managers of water resources at the national and transboundary levels.
- *Climatic and Hydrologic Variability.* A major emerging trend for transboundary water management is climatic and hydrologic variability, which presents a new level of complexity for monitoring, reporting, planning and management. Such factors, which need better study and documentation, contribute to changes in watershed management

requirements. They also have impacts on drought and flood management and contribute to the desertification, soil erosion, habitat destruction and biodiversity loss already affecting a number of countries.

- *Legal Instruments.* The use of legal instruments, in the form of global and regional conventions, multilateral and bilateral agreements and other instruments will continue to provide frameworks for cooperation in the management of transboundary water resources and will be continuously adapted to the evolving needs of the cooperating countries. A wide range of planning and management activities in this area can; however, be initiated prior to legally binding instruments being negotiated and agreed between cooperating parties.
- *Engaging New Actors in Transboundary Issues.* The connections between foreign and domestic policy bring new actors to the fore. In order to adequately address global and regional environmental threats, including those to water resources, environmental diplomacy requires an unprecedented degree of cooperation among governments, international agencies, the private sector and the full array of civil society organizations. It also calls for an interdisciplinary approach, which surpasses the limits of traditional diplomacy.
- *Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building.* In the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions significant needs exist for institutional strengthening and capacity building to address the opportunities and challenges raised by transboundary water management. These activities can take many forms and should be directly linked with the overall development of institutions, infrastructure and human resources for water management as broadly defined at the local, national and transboundary levels.
- *Cooperative Monitoring Programs.* The development of cooperative monitoring programs has often been the first step in cooperation and provided an important mechanism for confidence building as well as the basis for a structured exchange of information. Monitoring has been successfully used to evaluate trends in water quantity, water quality and aquatic habitats and provided the basis for the design and adjustment of management of transboundary actions. In several cases it has also provided important information for flood and emergency management.
- *Water Education and Public Awareness.* Support for water education and public awareness is central to successful public understanding and support for transboundary water programs. These efforts need to go beyond teachers and engage a wide spectrum of parties. Such activities could be undertaken in the context of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

### **III. RECOMMENDED ACTIONS TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES IN THE SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS**

12. The objective of the recommended actions is to realize and expand the significant opportunities that exist for cooperation in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions for management of transboundary river basins, lake basins and shared aquifers. The recommended actions have been developed to provide the basis for strategic partnerships and are directly linked with a series of ongoing, planned and potential activities supported by national and local governments, the European Union, international and regional organizations, international financial institutions, bilateral donors, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations. The recommended actions seek to support progress in

sustainable economic development, social development and poverty reduction, as well as measures to promote peace and security.

#### **IV. MOVING BEYOND THE CONFERENCE**

13. The conclusions and recommendations of the Conference should be presented by the Hellenic Presidency of the European Union at the following meetings:

- MCSD Meeting on the **"Sustainable Development Strategy for the Mediterranean,"** to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia on May 14-16, 2003;
- **"Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference** to be held in Kiev, Ukraine on May 21-23, 2003; and
- **Group of 8 Summit** to be held in Evian, France on June 1, 2003.

Arrangements should also be made for the recommendations of the Athens Declaration to be carried forward as an element of the Italian Presidency of the European Union that begins in July 2003.

## Recommendations for Action

### ***Recommendation 1.***      **Developing a Diplomacy for Environment and Sustainable Development.**

It is recommended that measures be taken to support development of "Diplomacy for Environment and Sustainable Development" as a tool for enhanced cooperation at all levels of foreign and domestic policy, among governments, international agencies, the private sector and the full array of civil society and non-governmental organizations. Such diplomacy will be particularly useful in the management of transboundary river basins, lake basins and shared aquifers. The role of diplomacy should go beyond its traditional focus on avoiding conflict and crisis management, allowing it to become a comprehensive instrument to facilitate legal, management and technical interventions for transboundary water management at a variety of levels. To this end the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs proposes to launch an initiative, with other partners, to examine the practical use of this approach in the EU and in the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions.

### ***Recommendation 2.***      ***Southeastern Europe Transboundary River Basin and Lake Basin Management Program.***

It is recommended that a Southeastern Europe Transboundary River Basin and Lake Basin Management Program be developed as a follow-up action to the Athens Conference. This program would build on the implementation process of the European Union Water Framework Directive and complement and draw lessons from the ongoing Danube River Basin Program and Lake Ohrid Conservation Project. It would focus on the series of transboundary river basins lying south of the Danube River Basin, which flow into the Adriatic, Aegean, Black, and Ionian Seas, and on the set of transboundary lake basins in this area. The program would assist countries of the region, in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, to draft IWRM and water use efficiency plans for all major river basins and would include a range of complementary interventions in individual river and lake basins, with a coordination mechanism to allow for exchange of information and experience between activities. It is proposed that this program be considered as an element of the Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative and for support by other international and national sources.

***Recommendation 3. Mediterranean Shared Aquifers Management Program.***

It is recommended that a Mediterranean Shared Aquifers Management Program be developed to link ongoing programs, in order to: facilitate broader exchange of planning, management and implementation experience; assess interactions of aquifers and surface water; develop a mechanism for initiating cooperative work on additional shared aquifers on a case by case basis; and provide a means for development and dissemination of information on lessons learned and good practices. The program would play a valuable role in highlighting the importance of sustainable management of shared aquifers; the knowledge gained in the Mediterranean could be transferred to other regions that have less experience on this critical topic. It is proposed that this program be considered as an element of the Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative and for support by other international and national sources.

***Recommendation 4. Assessment of Regional and National Frameworks to Implement Integrated Water Resources Management.***

It is recommended that a comparative assessment be made of regional and national frameworks for implementation of IWRM in countries of the Southeastern Europe and Mediterranean regions. This comparative assessment would review the status of policy, legal, management and technical frameworks for both transboundary and national level application of IWRM. The assessment would make specific reference to the European Union "Water Framework Directive" and IWRM Guidelines prepared by the Global Water Partnership. Reference would also be made to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. It would identify actions that could be taken on a cooperative and/or individual basis to more fully address IWRM in planning and management programs. An element of the assessment would be the identification of lessons learned and good practices in the application of the European Union Water Framework Directive and IWRM in the two Regions. It would also examine measures used for freshwater, coastal and marine resources management.

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ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE
UN ENVIRONNEMENT POUR L'EUROPE
ОКРУЖАЮЩАЯ СРЕДА ДЛЯ ЕВРОПЫ
ДОВКІЛЛЯ ДЛЯ ЄВРОПИ
Kyiv, 21-23 May 2003



*FIFTH MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE*

ENVIRONMENT FOR EUROPE

KIEV, UKRAINE  
21-23 May 2003

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**DECLARATION**

**by the Ministers of Environment of the region of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

## EXTRACT

### J. Water for sustainable development

50. We are committed to the goals of the WSSD on water, in particular to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water and the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, and to develop Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) and water efficiency plans by 2005. We welcome the recent decision of the UNCSD to have water, sanitation and human settlements as a priority thematic cluster for 2004-2005, and to invite the UN regional commissions and other regional groups to focus on these issues.

51. We welcome water-related initiatives and partnership from all donors and the support they will provide to the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, including: the “Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development” launched at the WSSD by the EU and the twelve countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, aiming at urban water supply and sanitation including work on innovative financing mechanisms for water infrastructure and water resources management, including transboundary river basin and regional seas issues among countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia; the US Water for the Poor initiative launched at WSSD, focusing on increasing access to clean water and sanitation services, improving watershed management, and increasing the productivity of water; the US initiatives on:

- Central Asian transboundary water planning for water management,
- Caucasian data for integrated water management, and
- The Infrastructure Development Facility.

We further welcome the Statement on the Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable Development – East European, Caucasian and Central Asian Component of the EU Water Initiative. We invite other countries in the region and other interested parties to consider joining these important initiatives so that a critical mass of resources can be mobilized to achieve their goals. We look forward to the multi-stakeholder conference that will be organized in 2005 within the framework of the EAP Task Force to promote the implementation of the 2000 Almaty Ministerial Conference on Urban Water Sector Reform.

52. We welcome the initiatives and intentions of the countries of South-East Europe and the Mediterranean to promote peaceful and productive cooperation for introduction of integrated water resource management approaches for transboundary waters. In this context, we note the outcomes of the International Conference on “Sustainable Development for Lasting Peace: Shared Water, Shared Future, Shared Knowledge”, organized by Greece and the World Bank, in May 2003, as a building block of the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative.

# **MID-TERM EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONFERENCE OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**CRETE, 26-27 MAY 2003**

## **PRESIDENCY CONCLUSIONS**

### **EXTRACT**

#### *Environment*

37. The Ministers also welcomed the outcome of the Ministerial Conference on the Environment that took place in Athens in July 2002. By adopting the Athens Declaration the 27 participants to the Conference provided a significant impetus to the mainstreaming of sustainability in all activities of the Partnership. A Sustainability Impact Assessment of the free trade area is to be launched this year fulfilling the commitment agreed at Valencia. Besides, the contribution of the Ministerial Conference on the Environment in Helsinki in 1997 on cooperation between the Mediterranean and the Baltic and the launching in Athens of the cooperation initiative on sustainable development between the Mediterranean and the Baltic, enable the two regions to benefit from each other's experience.
38. The Ministers recognised that work should continue with a view to identifying what more can be done to enhance the sustainability of the Partnership and to assist the partners in raising the standards of norms of environmental protection.
39. The Ministers noted with interest the initiatives undertaken by the Greek Presidency on the issue of sustainable development such as the convening of the International Conference on Sustainable Development and Lasting Peace (Athens, 6/7 May 2003), co-hosted by the World Bank, as well as the presentation by the Presidency of the EU Water Initiative.

