

## **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**

### **Main Recommendations of**

### **Conference of the Water Directors**

### **Rome, 24-25 November 2005**

THE WATER GENERAL DIRECTORS OF ALGERIA, BELGIUM, CZECH REPUBLIC, CYPRUS, EGYPT, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ISRAEL, ITALY, JORDAN, GREECE, LEBANON, MALTA, MOROCCO, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM AND THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, AS WELL AS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE AND THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

participants to the conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water Sector –EMWIS– of Rome, 24-25 November 2005, in the frame of the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Process,

within the framework of the mandate, entrusted to them by the Ministers at the Turin conference in October 1999, to ensure the follow-up and the orientations for the implementation of the Action Plan, the Water Directors agreed on the following:

1. The improvement of information systems on water, aquatic environments and their use is one of the essential pillars for better governance and integrated water resources management. Such systems should be created or developed in each country as well as in the framework of the regional cooperation. Today, in the Mediterranean EMWIS is one of the most advanced examples in the World of what can be achieved in this field
2. The activity assessment of EMWIS implementation is highly positive and shows that this tool is the answer to a real need and to a strong demand of the partners according with the decision at the Ministerial Conferences of Marseilles (1996) and Turin (1999). The Water Directors agree to assert the sustainable nature of EMWIS which requires having the means to continue its long-term activity.
3. They recommend that the new four year programme covering the 2007-2010 period, takes the continuation, without any interruption, of the current phase and includes the following activities:
  - 3.1 To continue the operational implementation of EMWIS and the strengthening of the National Focal Points, the Technical Unit, with in particular the following activities:
    - a) Encouraging the sharing of know-how, the dissemination of information, and the exploitation of results from existing and future initiatives in favour of a better water management in the region,
    - b) Developing the role of EMWIS as a technical platform and support for the Joint Process between the Water Framework Directive and the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative
    - c) Study, with interested countries, the objectives and the feasibility of building up within EMWIS a regional water observation mechanism to monitor the indicators towards the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals related to water and sanitation in the Mediterranean, as

well as the implementation of the water related section of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development, based on the information provided by the National Water Information Systems, whenever they exist.

- 3.2 To open the EMWIS to the Mediterranean countries not signatories of the Barcelona Declaration, who would request it officially, in particular the Balkan countries and Libya
- 3.3 To define the conditions for financing, with a budget currently estimated at approximately 3,400 M€ for this 4-years programme 2007-2010, in the continuity of the current system and structure:
  - a) EMWIS Technical Unit activities, with the support of France, Italy and Spain and the European Union, for its tasks of regional coordination, support and technical assistance to the National Focal Points, development of the international information portal, and more generally the above mentioned activities,
  - b) Strengthening the support to the National Focal Points and, for interested partner countries, the assistance to the implementation or enhancement of their national water information systems with the bilateral co-financing support of the European Commission
  - c) Initiate the creation of National Focal Points and national water information systems in the Mediterranean countries not signatories of the Barcelona Declaration
4. They express their wish that the EMWIS should serve as a useful tool for ensuring coherency between Euro-Med Partnership policy and that of the Mediterranean Action Plan,
5. They propose that their Euro Mediterranean Conference of Water Directors serves as institutional support for the implementation of the European Union Water Initiative in the region.
6. The Water Directors wish that the bi and multilateral donors, especially the European Commission and the Member States of the European Union, ensure sufficient financial resources to meet the development needs of the water sector in the Mediterranean area.
7. The Water Directors have renewed the composition of EMWIS Steering Committee that includes now the following countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority. France has taken the Presidency of the Steering Committee. Lebanon and Morocco took the Vice-Presidencies.

**Abstract of the resolutions adopted at Rome on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

(full version available at [www.emwis.org](http://www.emwis.org))