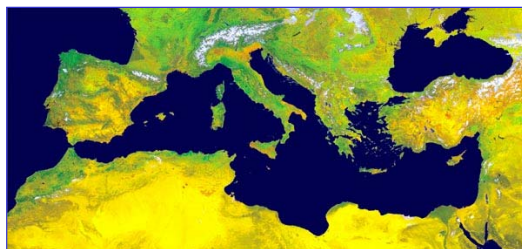


WATER COOPERATION SESSION IN MEDITERRANEAN RIVER BASINS



Sunday 5, November 2006

3rd draft (September 2006)

Introduction

Water is becoming a high priority in all Mediterranean countries, where this scarce resource is essential for the region's development, socio-economic improvement, peace and environmental sustainability.

The entrance into force of the European Water Directive has reinforced the common approach of promoting integrated water management (IWRM) at the basin level. This, in turn, is encouraging the consolidation of River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and the exchange of expertise in the region to ensure an adequate water management.

However, without the cooperation among countries, and specifically between RBOs, and the development of specific projects and initiatives in the region, IWRM could not be achieved.

The **Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations (MENBO)** organises, preceding the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors Conference an open cooperation session, where RBOs can participate and share information on water projects and initiatives obtaining a better approach of the IWRM situation in the region and discuss on-going activities facing region's problems. Mediterranean RBOS, stakeholders, policy-makers, users and NGOs interested in water management are welcome to participate.



Tentative Agenda

*Sunday 5, November 2006
Athens, Greece*

*11:00-13:30
Meeting of the Greek Water Directorates*

*15:00-18:00
Mediterranean Cooperation Session*

Capacity Building of River Basin Organisations (RBOs) and Mediterranean Cooperation

Opening presentation:

TWINBASIN Project: Exchange of personnel and experiences between RBOs, the Twinning of Mediterranean Basins Crete-Segura.

Other Projects contributing to Mediterranean exchange of IWRM practices

- *MELIA Project: Mediterranean Stakeholders' Platform, droughts effects.* Prof. Rafael Rodríguez (Project Coordinator)
- *SPI-WATER: common-interface.* Sylvie Detoc (EC)

IME: WWF-Mexico session results. Dr. Hachmi Kennou (Executive Director of IME)

MED EUWI and Country Dialogues. Sylvie Detoc (EC)

EMWIS activities 2007-2010. Partnership agreement EMWIS / INBO / MENBO. *Eric Mino, Jauad El Kharraz and Leticia Martinez*

Water Scarcity and Droughts

- Water Scarcity Working Group for the Water Framework Directive. *Water Directorate Spain*
- Other experiences and results

Discussion

- How to improve cooperation among Mediterranean countries and promote exchange of water management views
- Droughts and scarcity are provoking socio-economic and environmental impacts that affect the whole region: How to jointly find solutions
- How to disseminate results so that information and knowledge are not only limited to water users but available for the whole society



Coffee break

Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations Assembly 18:00

Open to the network's members, Mediterranean River Basin Organisations and all interested parties.

- Events and meetings (WWF-Mexico)
- Members recruitment (State of the art, new members and strategies)
- Projects and Initiatives (MELIA, TWINBASIN, SPI-Water)

