



Brussels, 26<sup>th</sup> June 2007  
ENV.D.2 SD

**MINUTES FROM THE 1<sup>ST</sup> MEETING OF THE WATER SCARCITY AND DROUGHT WORKING GROUP, JUNE 19<sup>TH</sup> 2007, SEVILLE**

These minutes summarise discussions held at the EUWI-Med Water Scarcity and Drought (WS & D) Working Group (WG) meeting held in Seville on June 19<sup>th</sup> 2007. The meeting was hosted by the European Commission and the Spanish Ministry of Environment.

*Attendees are listed at the end of these minutes.*

The meeting started off with a welcome note and introductions from the Chair of the Meeting, Mrs Sylvie Detoc from the European Commission.

The meeting was divided into three sessions:

• ***Introductory presentations:***

- Presentation of the Water Scarcity and Drought Working Group Phase II- Sylvie Detoc
- Presentation of the Results of the Zaragoza Workshop- Gaelle Thivet
- Presentation of the Medroplan Drought Management Guidelines- Ana Iglesias
- Presentation of the Mandate and Aims of the Working Group- Maria Sernequet

• ***Questionnaire results and examples:***

- Presentation of the results of the questionnaire – Carina Dunkerley
- The 1999 Drought in Israel, Palestine and Jordan- Keren Raiter
- The Jucar River Basin Authority- Javier Ferrer

• ***Next Steps:***

Agreement on the activities of the Working Group and Next Steps

***All the presentations are available on the WS& D-WG page of the EMWIS website:***  
<http://www.emwis.net/topics/WaterScarcity/WGmeetingSeville2007-06-19/presentations/>

## ***1. Main Discussion Points***

The following is a synthesis of the main points from the discussions that followed from the three sessions:

### ***Introductory presentations***

- While the WS&D report in the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the Joint Process was primarily a descriptive document of WS&D, the report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase will focus on an analysis of the situation and recommendations.
- The WS&D WG will present recommendations to the Water Directors on WS&D, based on information on the scope and impacts (including costs) of WS&D in the region, and experiences of measures put in place to deal with WS&D. The recommendations will try to address some of the conclusions highlighted in the first report, namely difficulties around quantitative status and difficulties in applying economic principles.
- The work of the WG is in the context of wider work being carried out on WS&D, by the Commission and the Expert Network on WS&D, set up at the EU level to identify the interfaces between the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and WS&D. Two reports were produced on the topic: the first, a technical report produced in June 2006 by the expert Network, the 2<sup>nd</sup> a report produced by the Commission with the support of the Expert Network, presenting an in depth assessment on WS&D in December 2006.
- The issue of virtual water was discussed following the Blue Plan presentation, the use of the concept, its limitations and how it can be used as an analytical tool. It was agreed that further work will be carried out on virtual water by the WG.
- The issue of the use of economic instruments was discussed following the Blue Plan presentation, in particular regarding water's elasticity to price. It was agreed further work will be carried out on economic instruments by the WG.
- The idea of the drought vulnerability index was introduced by Medroplan which defines the vulnerability of a population to drought. Its benefits and limitations were discussed, including the fact it is a subjective indicator and that the data is aggregated at national level. It was agreed to integrate this index and a social component in the WG's analysis.
- The issue of probability in drought management was discussed in the context of viewing drought as a random phenomenon and the change in the probability patterns that will occur as a result of climate change. This issue will be covered in the report under the management systems put in place to deal with drought and a separate section on climate change.
- The mandate was agreed upon without further comments from the WG members.

### *Questionnaire results and examples*

- The questionnaire enable to gather some good qualitative information, however there is a need for stronger quantitative information. Concerns were raised that it is difficult to get reliable information on water as it is a fragmented sector.
- The questionnaire could be improved through an improved process for data collection: eg, finding the right questionnaire respondent who can gather technical rather than political information. It was agreed that it is ultimately the responsibility of the water director to nominate the appropriate person in country and to send the best available information.
- There is also a need to identify what further data could be gathered: this could include information on the drought vulnerability index, information that would allow for the quantification of impacts, information about the links between droughts and tourism, information about health.

### *Next steps*

- The questionnaire will be improved using suggestions by Dr. Khalifa and resent in order to collect information on scope, impacts of WS&D and measures to address WS&D.
- A first draft will be prepared by the end of the year in the view of presenting the first findings to Euro-Med Water directors.
- Where appropriate, a second round of information will be collected in order to complete the first draft and finalise a report by mid-June 2008.
- The report will be written according to the table of content and the timeframes below.
- Issues were raised about language barriers and presentation. it was agreed that information only available in French will be sent in French, with a summary in English is possible and a template for writing and formatting the chapters will be circulated by Miss Dunkerley, and all information pertinent to the writing of the report will be uploaded on the EMWIS website.
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## **2. Table of content**

The following table of content and allocation of contributions has been agreed:

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<b>Chapter number</b>	<b>Chapter title</b>	<b>Aim of the chapter/ Topics covered</b>	<b>Chapter coordinator</b>	<b>Contributors</b>
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<b>Chapter number</b>	<b>Chapter title</b>	<b>Aim of the chapter/ Topics covered</b>	<b>Chapter coordinator</b>	<b>Contributors</b>
I	<b>Introduction</b>	Purpose of report, links with Phase 1	<b>Commission</b>	
II	<b>Executive Summary</b>		<b>Commission</b>	
III	<b>Methodology/ definitions</b>	Methodologies used for calculation, definitions, difficulties and caveats	<b>Mrs Moncelli</b>	MEMBO
IV	<b>WS and D monitoring</b>	Monitoring indicators (resources and demand management), alert thresholds and pre-alert mechanisms	<b>Mrs Monacelli</b>	Mrs Thivet, Blue Plan JRC
V	<b>Scope of WS and D and delineation</b>	Water exploitation index at national level  Information at river basin level	<b>EMWIS</b>  <b>MEMBO</b>	MEDSTAT- Mr El Kharraz to contact
VI	<b>Impacts of WS and D</b>	Types of economic, environmental and social impacts, estimating the cost of impacts	<b>Mrs Carmi</b>	JRC Mr Davy Mrs Raiter
VII	<b>WS and D measures</b>	Supply side actions, economic instruments  Demand side management  Management plan, risk management	<b>Mr Berthaut</b>  <b>Mrs Thivet, Blue Plan</b>  <b>Mrs Iglesias, Medroplan</b>	Dr Khalifa T. Davy
VIII	<b>Public participation in WS and D management</b>	Types, actions of public participation, examples	<b>MEMBO</b>	
IX	<b>Crisis management</b>	Water allocation, processes and actions for action in crisis situations	<b>MEMBO</b>	
X	<b>Climate change</b>	Impacts of climate change, climate change consideration in prevention and management policy	<b>Dr Khalifa</b>	Mrs Raiter (JRC) Mrs Thivet, Blue Plan
XI	<b>Virtual water</b>		<b>Dr Khalifa</b>	Mrs Thivet to send Blue Plan study
XII	<b>Conclusions and Recommendations</b>	Key learning points, recommendations for actions	<b>Commission</b>	ALL

### *3. Timeframe of Activities*

The following timeframe has been agreed:

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Questionnaire follow-up	Dr Khalifa to send revision to the questionnaire	Revisions sent by July 8 <sup>th</sup>
	EMWIS to send questionnaire	Questionnaire sent by <b>July 15th</b>
Circulate questionnaire responses	EMWIS	Deadline for questionnaire responses is <b>1<sup>st</sup> October</b>
Contributions sent to chapter coordinator	See table above	<b>15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER</b>
FIRST DRAFT	European Commission and co-chairs	<b>11<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER</b>
FINAL VERSION PRESENTATION		<b>JUNE 2008</b>

#### ***4. Delegate List***

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