

**BARCELONA PROCESS: UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN:
DECLARATION OF THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE
ON WATER**

Adopted, together with its annexes, by Ministers and Heads of Delegations participating in the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Water held in Jordan on 22 December 2008

We, the Participants,

Recalling,

- i. The Algiers Declaration (1990) and the Mediterranean Water Charter (Rome, 1992), underlining that water can positively contribute to cooperation among countries;
- ii. The Euro-Mediterranean Summit of Barcelona (27-28 November 1995) recognizing that water supply together with suitable management and development of resources are priority issues for all Mediterranean partners and that cooperation should be developed in these areas, as appropriate;
- iii. The Declaration of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial in Turin, 1999, that reached an agreement on an Action Plan on Local Water Management and entrusted the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors with the task of orienting, following up and assessing the implementation of the Action Plan;

Noting,

- i. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio, 1992), the Millennium Development Goals (2000) indicating specific targets in the field of water by 2015, the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 2002) and actions taken under the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (2003);

- ii. the Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean and in particular its priority on «Improving integrated water resource and water demand management » adopted by the Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Slovenia (Portoroz, 2005) and supported by Euro-Mediterranean Partners during the 10th anniversary of the Barcelona Process;
- iii. the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change fourth assessment report , adopted in November 2007, as well as the United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification and its “10-year strategic plan and framework to enhance the implementation of the Convention (2008-2018); the United Nations Convention on the Non-Navigational Uses of International Watercourses (1997);
- iv. The decision taken during the 15th Conference of State Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Almeria, 2008, to "strengthen cooperation and seek synergies with initiatives pursuing similar environmental objectives";

Highlighting,

The conclusions of the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean (13 July 2008), and in particular its reference mentioning that the Euro-Med Ministerial conference in Jordan in 2008 will define a Mediterranean water strategy, promoting conservation of water resources, diversifying water provision resources and efficient and sustainable use of water and the decision of launching the initiative of de pollution of the Mediterranean built upon the Horizon 2020 programme, as adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment in Cairo (2006) .

Welcome favourably the representatives of civil society;

Underline the importance of the results of effective cooperation in the field of water between Euro-Mediterranean partners in order to efficiently meet the challenges facing the countries of the region and to empower them with the tools to address these challenges and encourage further strengthening of this effective cooperation in particular in the fields of Integrated Water Resource Management, water supply, sanitation and transboundary freshwater resources, within the context of sustainable development, thus promoting equitable access and adequate supplies of water;

Recognize the enhanced cooperation between the EU and its Mediterranean partners, through the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean, the Instrument for Pre-Accession and the European Neighbourhood Policy, and commit themselves to work together to implement the bilateral agreements, the Action Plans agreed in the ENP framework and other forms of co-operation, in order to promote sustainable development in the region;

Stress:

- i. the degradation of resources both from a quality and quantity point of view;
- ii. the necessity to design and implement strategies and plans to achieve sustainable water resources management through integrated approaches comprising all kinds of water and all its uses ;
- iii. the growing gaps between water consumption and availability of resources, in particular in the light of the priority given to supply side policies;
- iv. that the widening of such gaps, without a coordinated action, is likely to be worsened by the effects of climate change, economic development and demographic growth;
- v. that water supply measures (traditional or alternatives) might be considered once the projected impact of water savings prove insufficient;
- vi. the imbalances in access to water supply and sanitation, bearing in mind that equal access contributes to poverty eradication, the improvement of health, economic development, hygiene, sustainable land use development, education, protection of the environment and of ecosystems;
- vii. the need to prepare a comprehensive and detailed assessment of water resources in the Mediterranean and of management policies and based on homogeneous and coherent information;
- viii. the necessity to promote the development of science-based technologies that will provide inter alia for efficiency in water use and supply measures;

1. A STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN FOCUSED ON THE NEEDS OF POPULATIONS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES.

1. Taking note of the different challenges evoked, the Ministers agree to define the Long Term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean, as decided by the Heads of State and Government.

This coordinated and integrated Strategy, will:

- i. tackle problems that go beyond the means of any one country, organisation or initiative, in particular those related to the impact of climate change and environmental needs, that call for a co-ordinated approach and increased cooperation;
- ii. build on integrated approaches, taking into consideration every kind of water, the needs of different users, by means of integrated management at basin level, as a tool to allow countries in the Mediterranean to respond to these challenges collectively and individually;
- iii. include two main goals: conservation of water quality including the prevention of further deterioration of water resources and the balance between the quantity of water used and the quantity of water available including mitigating and preventing the consequences of droughts and water scarcity;
- iv. include both measurable qualitative and quantitative objectives, as part of a voluntary commitment to achieve these goals;
- v. consider the most appropriate instruments to reach the objectives of the Strategy, with a view to achieve economic growth, social prosperity, equitable access and adequate supplies of water, and environmental protection, notably through improved efficiency of all water uses, appropriate governance arrangements, legislation and institutional arrangements, effective national and local planning, innovative financial mechanisms, tariff policies, standards, labels, alternative solutions, keeping in mind the differences in national situations and the need to increase the citizen's awareness by promoting the wide participation of civil society aiming at building the culture of water;

vi. develop and exploit for the benefit of all, scientific, technical and technological tools in these fields;

2. Based on these principles, Ministers approve the guidelines for the Strategy for water in the Mediterranean as defined in Annex 1 to this Declaration together with its elaboration calendar;

2. AN EFFICIENT AND SHARED ELABORATION AND FOLLOW UP MECHANISM.

3. Ministers decide to work more closely together in order to define, in a shared and balanced framework, the Strategy;

4. Ministers underline the need to work closely both at a regional and national level with other Ministers concerned by water issues;

5. Ministers task a Water Expert Group, composed of government designated representatives of national authorities in charge of water policy of Euro-Mediterranean countries having the capacity to take decisions (e.g. water directors) and the European Commission to elaborate further the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean as well as to assist its implementation and follow-up, in line with the guidelines described in Annex 1;

6. Ministers agree to work to ensure the provision of appropriate financial resources and technical support to elaborate and implement the Strategy;

7. Ministers invite funding institutions to coordinate at regional and national level, in order to support the elaboration and the implementation of the Strategy;

8. Ministers call on all stakeholders, including parliaments and the EMPA, to contribute, where appropriate in a coordinated manner, to the development of the new Strategy as well as to support appropriate means for its implementation;

9. Ministers encourage further strengthening of effective cooperation in particular in the fields of Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Supply and Sanitation and reaffirm the importance of elaborating and implementing, through participatory processes, effective national and local IWRM based on realistic financing strategies;
10. Ministers reaffirm the importance of data, information and statistics on water, based on internationally agreed definitions and methods, structured within information systems, for analysis and decision making and insist on the need to dispose of national and regional systems that contribute to the definition, implementation and follow-up of the Strategy;
11. Ministers hence call for strengthening the coordination of existing Euro-Mediterranean initiatives and networks on information and expertise, policy planning and monitoring as well as capacity building so as to increase synergies between ongoing activities; in particular, exchange of information will be implemented through voluntary approaches, keeping in mind the objective of seeking comparability , consistency and avoiding duplication of work;
12. Ministers underline the importance of exchange of good practices, including through EU, Mediterranean, and other relevant programmes.

3. LAUNCHING OF THE ELABORATION OF THE STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

13. Ministers consider the technical work prepared by the Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors as a contribution to the success of the Conference;
14. Ministers welcome the contribution of civil society in the field of best practices as well as the projects and partnerships developed in line with its principles and presented in the margins of the Conference;

15. Ministers encourage a swift implementation of partnerships in order to implement concrete projects in line with the guidelines of the future Strategy and with a strong sense of co-ownership by the concerned populations and underscore the importance of the active participation of civil society, local and regional authorities and the private sector in the implementation of these partnerships;
16. Ministers suggest to adopt the Strategy for water in the Mediterranean by the next Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean summit scheduled in 2010; this Strategy will be subsequently developed in a related Action Plan and will be regularly reviewed;
17. Ministers propose to hold the 4th Euro-Med Ministerial Conference on water in the first half of 2010;
18. Ministers invite the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development to consider such Strategy as a possible contribution to the « Improving integrated water resource and water demand management » priority of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development;
19. Ministers invite the Foreign Affairs Ministers to take note of these conclusions and look forward to their presentation to the next Environment ministerial conference and, because of the issues at stake, to the Agriculture Ministerial Conference;
20. Ministers thank the Jordanian Government for hosting the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Water co-chaired with the French EU Presidency and Arab Republic of Egypt as co-chairs of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.

ANNEX 1

Guidelines for the development of the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean

- 1) The strategy aims at tackling the main challenges in the field of water in the Mediterranean region, notably by fostering effective cooperation between Euro-Mediterranean partners within the context of sustainable development;
- 2) It will be based on:
 - a) the lessons learnt from the implementation of the Turin Action Plan, the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative for the achievement of the MDG and WSSD targets, and from the “integrated water management and water demand” priority of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development bearing in mind that the Mediterranean Commission for sustainable development shall be consulted;
 - b) The work and experience of regional, national and local institutions dealing and supporting efficient water uses and aiming at improved quality of water for human consumption, to serve economic development, social equity and prosperity and environmental protection, to promote better management of water demand and an efficient allocation of water resources in the different activities;
 - c) The lessons learnt from best practices on water resources management;
- 3) The Strategy will address in particular the challenges of growing water demand and impact of climate change, keeping in mind the need for equity considerations and preparing a list identifying the countries most affected by climate change in the Euro-Mediterranean region; it shall aim at reintegrating or maintaining the balance between supply and demand, consumption and availability, firstly as regards agricultural uses (as agriculture is the main water consumer in the region), and taking into account the ecosystems’ needs;

- 4) The strategy should take into account governance reforms;
- 5) The Strategy will be translated into policies, initiatives and actions that should give high priority to improved demand management encouraging water efficiency and the mobilisation of water supply measures (traditional or alternatives including wastewater reuse, desalination, rainwater harvesting), once the projected impacts of water saving measures prove insufficient, and encouraging benefit sharing through transboundary water management.
- 6) The Strategy will cover the following areas :
 - a. Advancing on effective water governance for integrated water resources management and water supply and sanitation ; awareness, technical and capacity building and coordination within administrative units and among stakeholders;
 - b. Addressing water and climate change, through adaptation measures together with mitigation with emphasis, inter alia, on management of droughts and floods, mitigation of water scarcity effects and combat desertification;
 - c. Optimizing water financing, water valuation and appropriate instruments, with emphasis on innovative mechanisms;
 - d. Water demand management and efficiency and non-conventional water resources.
- 7) The strategy will include both qualitative and quantitative objectives, as part of a voluntary approach, in particular a quantified objective for water savings at regional level;
- 8) The strategy will include an Action Plan, specifying the modalities through which these objectives will be achieved for the related years ;
- 9) The strategy will draw upon existing initiatives and partnerships, in accordance with its principles;

- 10) The strategy will aim at developing a coherent system and efficient synergies between the existing initiatives in order to assess priorities both at a regional and national level ; enhanced coordination of financial resources at a national, regional, and international level shall be sought;
- 11) The elaboration, implementation and follow up of the Strategy will be assisted by the strengthened collaboration between existing organisations, institutions and initiatives on water related MDGs and IWRM targets;
- 12) To ensure definition and implementation of the Strategy, water related information will be structured at a regional level, based on existing thematic contributions;
- 13) Strengthening the coordination and synergies between the existing Mediterranean initiatives and networks on information and expertise should contribute further to the elaboration, implementation and follow-up of the Strategy by:
 - a. facilitating the development of national information systems, national documentation centres and related training activities;
 - b. developing, at regional and national level, within the context of existing initiatives and governance mechanisms, exchange systems inter alia on : (i) water related information and monitoring, (ii) documentary data, (iii) professional training (iv) prospective analysis, (v) research, know-how and technology;
- 14) Ministers agree to entrust the Euro-Med Water Expert Group with the following tasks and according to the below modalities:
 - a) Under the political guidance of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers responsible for Water, the Water Expert Group will:
 - i. carry out the tasks defined by the Ministerial Declaration on Water agreed in Jordan on 22 December 2008 including through the provision of technical inputs for ministerial meetings;

- ii. endeavour to provide technical input to water related initiatives and processes in the region including recommendations to enhance effectiveness, coordination and complementarity of all key water related activities;
 - iii. develop a draft annual work-plan along the lines of the calendar and tasks defined by the Ministerial Declaration on Water agreed in Jordan on 22 December 2008;
- b) The Water Expert Group is co-chaired, when possible, according to the co-presidency rules of the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.
 - c) Representatives from local authorities, civil society including the private sector and other stakeholders dealing with water management, as well as international and regional organizations, funding institutions, donors and other bodies may be invited to the meetings of the Water Expert Group as observers.
 - d) The Water Expert Group works on the basis of co-operation and open exchange of views. Decisions should be taken only on the basis of consensus.
 - e) The Water Expert Group meets at least once a year.
 - f) The working languages of the Water Expert Group will be coherent with the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.
 - g) Each participant of the Water Expert Group on Water Issue is expected to support his involvement in the Group's work with his own resources. If funding becomes available, participation in the Group's work (eg. attendance at meetings, etc) may be supported.
 - h) Where appropriate, a Secretariat facilitating the tasks of the Water Expert Group will be set up and will act in coherence with the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean.

15) The calendar for the elaboration of the strategy must be coherent with the calendars of related initiatives and programmes: The calendar is the following

- a. Water Expert Group's contribution produced during its annual meetings, including two meetings before the end of 2009;
- b. Adoption of the Strategy: Ministerial Conference on Water of 2010 in order to be submitted to the Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean summit;
- c. Developing strengthened coordination of the existing Mediterranean networks of information and expertise on water, including first discussions in early 2009 covering inter alia water information, policy planning and monitoring, capacity development and sharing of expertise and the development of partnerships as from 2009.

ANNEX 2

WATER PROJECTS

In the framework of the ministerial declaration adopted during the Conference on Water held in Jordan on 22 December 2008, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations wish to incorporate the continuation of their work into the ethos of the Paris Summit by the swift implementation of concrete and visible projects on the ground, helping to resolve the severe problems caused by the degradation of water quality and quantity and by the growing gap between resource availability and the increased needs and demands of the farming, domestic, industrial, tourist and environmental sectors.

They take note with satisfaction that the implementation of the Process has already enabled a number of water projects to be identified, with these projects in line with the Paris Declaration for the Mediterranean and relating to the following priority concerns:

- 1 - Adaptation to climate change.
- 2 - Balance between supply and demand.
- 3 - Conservation and rehabilitation of natural environments.
- 4 - Depollution of the Mediterranean.
- 5 – Technologies and efficient use of water.

Taking note of a first, indicative list of projects identified as examples and proposed by France, Jordan, Greece, Spain, The Netherlands, Egypt and Turkey, they ask all the partners to put forward the projects that they want to carry out so that they can be considered by the process.

They wish future projects to be in line with the guiding principles of the Future Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean and its accompanying action plan and consistent with ongoing processes, policies and programmes to learn lessons from replicable completed projects and emphasize the importance of multi-country projects. In addition, these projects could contribute to specific activities such as training, technology transfer, awareness and capacity building.

They call for mobilizing urgently additional funding for the implementation of the projects, in conformity with the Paris Declaration.
