

## **The Euro-Mediterranean Conference on water management held in Marseilles** 25th and 26 of November 1996

It was organised at the initiative of the European Commission and the French Government, with the support of the City of Marseilles. The International Office for Water took charge of the secretariat.

The Conference proceedings are presented in five volumes.

The first volume is devoted to the Ministerial Conference. It contains the decisions adopted by the Ministers and Heads of delegation as well as:

- Marseilles Declaration,
- the recommendations selected by the experts,
- a note on the project of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System in the Water Field,
- the opening and closing speeches of host authorities,
- other official speeches by Ministers and Heads of delegation,
- the official list of delegations.

The four other volumes are devoted to the experts' workshops concerning:

- water management for sustainable agriculture,
- domestic and industrial water,
- basic and continuous training for professionals in the water sector,
- strengthening of institutions.

They include the technical conclusions of each workshop as well as the various papers presented.

All these documents can be obtained from the Conference secretariat. They are also available on Internet ([www.oieau.fr/EUROMED](http://www.oieau.fr/EUROMED)).

### **DECISIONS**

- The Presidency of the European Union, represented by Mr. Bernard ALLEN, Minister of State for the Environment of the Republic of Ireland,
- the European Commission, represented by Mrs. Emma BONINO, European Commissioner for Fisheries, Consumers and Humanitarian Aid,
- Algeria represented by Mr. Abdelnaceur KALLI, Director of the Minister's Cabinet, Ministry of Public Works and Land Reclamation,
- Germany, represented by Mr. SPRANGER, Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development,
- Austria, represented by Mr. Wolfgang STALZER, Director General, Ministry of Agriculture,

- Belgium, represented by Mr. Jan DE SCHUTTER, Natural Environment and Landscape Administration, Flanders Region,
- Cyprus, represented by Mr. Costas PETRIDES, Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment,
- Denmark represented by Mr. Thomas BECKER, Special Adviser to the Minister, Ministry of Environment and Energy,
- Egypt, represented by Mr. Abd El-Rahman SHALABY, Senior Undersecretary, Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources,
- Spain, represented by Mrs. Isabel TOCINO, Minister for the Environment,
- Finland, represented by Mrs. Sirkka HAUTOJARVI, Secretary General, Ministry for the Environment,
- France, represented by Mrs. Corinne LEPAGE, Minister for the Environment,
- Greece, represented by Mr. Theodoros KOLIOPANOS, Secretary of State for the Environment,
- Ireland, represented by Mr. Bernard ALLEN, Minister of State for the Environment,
- Israel, represented par Mr. Gidon ZUR, Water Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture,
- Italy, represented by Mr. Giovanni Francesco MATTIOLI, Vice Minister of Public Works,
- Jordan, represented by Mr. Samir KAWAR, Minister of Water and Irrigation,
- Lebanon, represented by Mr. Ali HRAJLI, Minister of Publics Works,
- Luxembourg, represented by Mr. Johny LAHURE, Minister for the Environment,
- Malta, represented by Mr. Charles BUHAGIAR, Minister of Public Works and Construction,
- Morocco, represented by Mr. Abdelaziz MEZIANE, Minister of Public Works,
- The Netherlands, represented by Mr. Jan HOOGLAND, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management,
- Portugal, represented by Mr. Pedro SERRA, President, National Water Institute,
- United Kingdom, represented by Mr. Neil SUMMERTON, Director for Water, Ministry for the Environment,
- Sweden, represented by Mr. Mats KARLSSON, Secretary of State for International Cooperation,
- Syria, represented by Mr. Abdul Rahman MADANI, Minister of Irrigation,
- Tunisia, represented by Mr. Mohamed Medhi MLIKA, Minister for the Environment and Land Reclamation,

- Turkey, represented by Mr. Recai KUTAN, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources,
- Palestinian Authority, represented by Mr. Riyad EL-KHOUDARY, President, Al Azhar University,

*participants to the Marseilles Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Local Water Management,*

*referring to the Union and the participants' policies, and to the principles stated in the declaration of the Barcelona Conference held on November 28, 1995, including those related to political partnership:*

- adopt the attached declaration,
- take note of the recommendations selected by the experts at the Cairo Conference held on October 21 and 22, 1996 and in Marseilles on November 25, 1996, and agree to initiate, facilitate or develop, whenever possible, actions that are consistent with the recommendations proposed by these workshops, notably by way of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation,
- agree to set up a Euro-Mediterranean information system on practical knowledge in the water management field, taking into account the operations and structures that already exist. This system will contribute to the development and setting up of the Mediterranean Water Network, created by the Charter of Rome on October 23, 1992. It will have to be related to existing organisations.

## **MARSEILLE DECLARATION**

- The Presidency of the European Union, represented by Mr. Bernard ALLEN, Minister of State for the Environment of the Republic of Ireland,
- The European Commission, represented by Mrs. Emma BONINO, European Commissioner for Fisheries, Consumers and Humanitarian Aid,
- Algeria represented by Mr. Abdelnaceur KALLI, Director of the Minister's Cabinet, Ministry of Public Works and Land Reclamation,
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- Turkey, represented by Mr. Recai KUTAN, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources,
- Palestinian Authority, represented by Mr. Riyad EL-KHOUDARY, President, Al Azhar University,

**participants to the Marseilles Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Local Water Management:**

- reassert the principles set out in the declaration and the work programme adopted at Barcelona on November 28, 1995, in all its parts: political, economic, cultural and social,
- recognise that water resources are limited and becoming scarce, and that development costs are becoming prohibitive,

- recognise that water is not only an asset of economic value, but also an important element to be protected on respect of all ecosystems,
  - are aware of the need to define a set of common principles, the application of which will make water a factor of co-operation,
  - underline the importance of water issues in the setting up of a Euro-Mediterranean solidarity area so that the partnership objectives set in Barcelona are achieved,
  - wish to give a new impetus to the Euro-Mediterranean co-operation in the field of water management, and establish guidelines for co-operation in this sector,
  - take note of the recommendations and technical conclusions of the experts' workshops in Cairo on 21st and 22nd October and Marseilles on 25th November 1996,
  - confirm and supplement the principles of the Rome Charter of 23 October 1992. They agree to respect, each so far as they are concerned, the principles and the type of actions set out herein after,
1. Rational management of water, its protection, its utilisation and the development of available resources while respecting the natural equilibria and the rights of future generations, are of major interest.
  2. Water management should contribute to develop a sense of solidarity between different users. The participants will endeavour to meet the needs of their populations while respecting the public interest and the requirements of balanced management.
  3. Economic and social development requires sustainable water management policies and plans. Hence, economic and social development policies should take water management policies into account.
  4. Management policies for water uses and resources must be based on short, medium and long term development plans which take account of social, economic and environmental criteria.
  5. Water must be managed in its natural environment. The participants will endeavour to organise their water policies within the framework of a global and integrated approach. Their policies will be co-ordinated with those related to soil management and conservation and to land use planning.
  6. Water needs to be managed in a participative manner. The multiplicity of water uses implies that institutional and legal mechanisms be set up and adapted to the social, cultural, physical and economic context of projects, while directly or indirectly associating the various categories of users. This participative management is one of the elements contributing to the prevention of conflicts. It must be ensured at all appropriate levels.
  7. Water must be conserved. The participants will seek to promote demand management and conservation policies as well as initiatives aimed at combating water shortages.
  8. Water quality must be managed. The participants will seek to promote the establishment of quality standards for the supply of good quality water and for discharges of waste water, together with proper detection and monitoring means. They consider it to be important to pursue a sustained investment policy in this field.
  9. Water has a socio-economic value. The participants agree on the need to assess this value. They will undertake economic analyses and will develop means of calculation to assess the cost of the services needed to provide, distribute, and give access to water and guarantee its quality. The price of these services to the users will take into account these costs, in an appropriate manner. In this respect, effective access for the poorest people in urban and rural areas to potable water would have to be ensured.
  10. Water management requires sufficient, accessible information. The participants will endeavour to develop and standardise the administrative methods for data (collection, storage, processing, validation and up-dating...) on water quality, quantity, demand, resources and on forecasting disasters. The participants agree to improve access to this information.
  11. Water has always been given a particularly important place in the Mediterranean cultures. Today, educational programmes at all levels must emphasise the value of water.

Furthermore, the participants will pursue their efforts to inform and make people aware of water issues in the Mediterranean region.

12. Water management requires skills. The participants will endeavour to support the development or the continuation of training programmes for professionals, particularly those involved in operations, including social, economic and environmental aspects.
13. The increasing gap between potential water availability and foreseeable demand requires that an important innovatory effort be undertaken. The participants will encourage research in the field of water on different topics (technical, cultural, social,...). In particular they will pursue their scientific and technical efforts on the use of new sources of water (recycling, desalination,...).
14. The challenge of the future management of water is of prime importance. Consequently, the participants will, whenever possible pool their practical knowledge and strengthen their co-operation in the field of water management.

CAIRO, OCTOBER 21 AND 22, 1996

MARSEILLES, NOVEMBER 25, 1996

## **RECOMMENDATIONS SELECTED BY THE EXPERTS**

### **PREAMBLE**

A global and sustainable management of water resources by each of the partners in the Mediterranean Basin that aims at optimally meeting the rational needs of the various users, within the limits of available resources while protecting the aquatic ecosystems, requires the strengthening of the competencies and institutions concerned.

1. People's secure supply of drinking water must always be given priority. Special attention must be paid to the underprivileged.
2. Sustainable increased agricultural productivity can only be achieved by making an optimized use of the scarce water resources, taking into account the sustainable management of the water and land resources and limiting undesirable environmental impacts.
3. The competence and awareness of different actors is an essential condition for a good water management, and requires significant means of training and information.

### **PARTICULAR RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **A. WATER MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE**

1. The authorities should base the framework for a sustainable agricultural development on the establishment and implementation of a planning policy and its related legal framework and regulations. Application of modern technologies, like Decision Support Systems (DSS) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), in planning policy would have to be promoted to support this strategy.
2. There is a direct relationship between the quality of service - including an efficient management by Agencies and/or Water Users Associations - and the rate of the fee for water or the price for the service. The cost of the service would have to be progressively recovered from the users.
3. Environmental protection related to water management in irrigated and drained areas and proper use of non conventional water resources have to be assured by authorities, agencies and users. This requires, among others, an effective monitoring and control of the environmental impacts of water management. Regarding non conventional water resources development, focus would have to be made on the careful reuse of treated wastewater and use of low quality water.
4. The opening to the World market and the liberalization in agriculture will have positive and negative consequences for water management which would have to be investigated for the whole Mediterranean region. Adjustment programmes may have to be developed to assure positive effects on investments, farmers income and water resources development.

## **1. DOMESTIC AND INDUSTRIAL WATER**

1. Water conservation measures to include leakage control and, if necessary, investment in mains rehabilitation, replacement or restructuring should constitute an important objective.
2. Appropriate tariffing should be applied, with regard to the real investment and operating costs of water supply services and sewerage services as well as incentives for savings in consumption and reduction of polluting discharges. Mechanisms to establish solidarity between the various categories of users should be developed.
3. The cooperation of Mediterranean and European partners in the water sector, when possible, should be developed on various fields, particularly new technologies, the use of non-conventional resources, exchange of information and research results, methods of monitoring water quality.

## **1. BASIC AND CONTINUING TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS IN THE WATER SECTOR**

1. The creation and development of capabilities for basic and continuing professional training is a must.

Training must be reinforced at all hierarchical levels, and for all professions, insisting on the practical approaches of the courses oriented towards the on-the-job apprenticeship.

2. Short and long term training plans have to be developed and the means, mainly financial, necessary for their realization, need to be found, since training is expensive.
3. Collaboration between centres of excellence in the various specialities and the facilitation of the creation or reinforcement of professional technological centres has to be favoured, in the framework of a regional training cooperation programme, for the fast training of the trainers and the production of the necessary educational material.
4. **STRENGTHENING OF INSTITUTIONS**

It is important to be aware of the time needed for the implementation of the recommendations herein after.

1. A clear and stable legal and institutional framework should be established by each of the partners, referring to a system of common terminology and useful standards in order to favour a clear global approach for the different users.
2. Decentralization of competences and responsibilities is necessary to bring the decision making process closer to local realities as well as the creation or the reinforcement of structures, encouraging the participation of local authorities and associations of users.

It particularly encourages, whenever possible, the organization of the management of the resources on appropriate hydrological and geographical scales, subject to existing and futures agreements between the interested parties.

3. The economic value of water must be taken into account. It is recommended that prices be adjusted according to the uses, the development of multiannual programming tools, the application of "user polluter pays" principle allowing for balanced management.
4. Development and modernization of measuring and analysis tools, setting up of data banks which are reliable, accessible, understandable and comparable are indispensable. Data will deal with the state of resources both in terms of quality and quantity, as well as with the uses and discharges and with their seasonal and geographical variations, so as to generate a system of common references in order to efficiently follow polices.

## **GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **INFORMATION AND AWARENESS OF DECISION-MAKERS AND POPULATION**

Action programmes must be specifically organized to facilitate access to useful information under appropriate forms, for local elected officials, socio-professional representatives or heads of NGO's.

Public awareness programmes must be organized to give the population some basic notions on water saving and on a good management of water resources.

### **EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTATION**

The creation of an exchange system of economic, institutional and technical documentation between specialized "relay documentation centres", that would be responsible for its collection and distribution, is a necessity.

In harmony with the existing and future cooperation agreements, the decentralized cooperation, like the networking of the partners concerned with regional cooperation, is an efficient mean for a sustainable water management. Cooperation between participants and institutions of the Mediterranean Basin and Europe must allow for the speeding up of the ongoing adjustments, by crossed fertilization, based on the exchange of experiences.

### **NOTE RELATIVE TO THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM ON KNOW HOW IN THE WATER FIELD**

Rome and Algiers conferences emphasized the social, cultural and economic importance of water, a scarce resource in the Mediterranean basin. Its management requires the best possible knowledge of existing tools, actors and methods. The available information on these items only exists in a fragmented, dispersed and heterogeneous way.

Therefore it is necessary to make an effort to rationalize and make this information readable, easily accessible and usable. This need should be met with the use of modern communication means. Such is the purpose of creating the proposed information system.

In order to set up a regional cooperation, the Mediterranean Water Charter (Rome, 1992) had decided on the creation of a Mediterranean Water Network whose implementation was subsequently studied during Valencia (1993) and Marseilles (1994) meetings. This Network aims at directing regional actions in the water field.

The Mediterranean Water Network should participate in the information system whose creation is proposed.

This information system does not replace it, but on the contrary, use the existing structures (operators and networks). It will thus have several locations.

Its purpose is to gather the existing information systems into a network.

### **FUNCTIONS OF THE SYSTEM**

The following main functions would be assigned to such a system:

- collecting information on each topic. This includes a search for and an inventory of information sources (organizations, people), regular retrieval of information from these sources and from new sources that could appear and the collection and organization of information,
- selecting relevant parameters and standardizing them,
- checking out information accuracy. This implies the setting up of a checking and up-dating system,



- disseminating information. This involves the presentation of information and the possibilities of access for different categories of people and dissemination methods,
- facilitating links. This implies exchanges of raw information, of information on techniques related to information and the setting up of contacts between organizations or people concerned by this topic.

Access to information that is available through this information exchange system should be open to all people interested in water management.

## **PROPOSED TOPICS**

The following topics were proposed as exchange topics to widen a Euro-Mediterranean dialogue:

### *TRAINING*

Such a system should comprise organized information on:

- contents of existing training,
- location of training,
- training organizations,
- trainers,
- training methods,
- training materials,
- quality certification,
- validation of training (diplomas, taken into consideration by an employer,...),
- sources of finance for training.

### *RESEARCH-DEVELOPMENT*

Such a system should comprise organized information on:

- research-development fields,
- research-development organizations for each field,
- people involved in research-development in each field,
- research-development methods used in each field,
- known techniques for each field,
- existing documents in each field,
- existing partners in each field,
- sources of funds for research-development.

### *INSTITUTIONAL*

Such a system should comprise organized information on:

- theoretical types of institution and organization,
- existing institutions and organizations for each field and type,

- people involved in the work on institutions and organizations (practical and theoretical work),
- methods for setting up each type of institution and organization,
- management and operating methods for each type of institution and organization,
- sources of funds for setting up institutions and organizations.

#### *DATA ADMINISTRATION*

We will deal here with statistical information methods and then preparation of data related to water, requirements, resources and catastrophe forecasting.

Such a system should comprise organized information on:

- collection and checking methods,
- data management methods (standards, sampling, periodicity,...),
- sources of data collection, existing organizations and data banks,
- methods for forecasting demands, needs, and natural catastrophes,
- methods for assessing the quality of water and media,
- modes for presenting data,
- sources of funds for data collection.

#### *DOCUMENTATION*

The aim is to facilitate the publishing and dissemination of institutional, scientific and technical documents, including those concerning the four above topics.

Such a system should comprise organized information on:

- identification of specialized documentation centres,
- existing documentation and its evaluation,
- methods used for processing/dissemination,
- access means and technologies,
- standardization (thesauri, exchange system, publishing),

Other topics could be added into such a system.

#### **IMPLEMENTATION PROPOSAL**

Many operators already intervene on these topics, either at national level, or within community, Mediterranean or multilateral networks.

We remind you that this system will be established with these operators.

It would be progressively set up according to the capacity of local operators to enter this system. In a first phase, it implies the commitment of a first group of operators in charge of preparing reference tools for transferring information on the five chosen topics.

The action plan and the means necessary for implementing this system require various investigations to be made. These should be entrusted to experts to deal with:

- the identification, using topics of action, of operators that can be rapidly mobilized,
- the examination and evaluation of information transfer systems that are already organized within existing networks in order to broaden them,
- the examination of the possibilities for widening and gathering these networks to open them to all interested Euro-Mediterranean partners,
- draw up proposals for the organization of this network.

Thanks to this mission that should regroup experts from the Union member countries and Mediterranean partners as well as from the Commission, conclusions would be presented during a seminar as soon as possible. Personalities would be invited to this seminar:

- managers of water administrations,
- operators that may be involved in the project.