

- EMWIS-

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM ON KNOW-HOW IN THE WATER SECTOR

2nd meeting of the Working Group
Valence (Spain) – 1st October 1997

CONCLUSIONS

In accordance with the conclusions of Amman meeting (April 1997), the working group met in Valencia (Spain) on the 1st of October 1997.

All the countries of the group were represented (Algeria, Cyprus, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Spain, United Kingdom) with the exception of Jordan that could not come because of a late commitment (the Jordan paper was transmitted by fax).

The meeting proceeded under very good conditions. The thematic groups and the "network" expert presented the results of their work and the draft of the Internet prototype was also presented. Discussions led to a unanimous agreement regarding :

- a. the validation of the results presented by the thematic groups as regards information expectations and a first analysis of the information available in the countries;
- b. the need to study in detail the possibility of resorting to Trans-European communication networks (TEN 34) with an extension to the third Mediterranean countries;
- c. the definition of EMWIS's objectives and a development programme for the 1998-2000 period;
- d. the organization of the management structures should include:
 - i. Management Committee limited to the representatives of 10 countries and to the European Commission;
 - ii. Coordination Committee that will group a Technical Unit and the representatives of the National Focal Points involved in the project;

The technical unit could be composed of a consortium of the 4 operators representing the countries that presently lead the thematic groups (IOW, CEDEX, Hydrocontrol, WRc). These operators are in charge of studying, before Naples meeting, the type of legal structure (association, EIG ...) that would permit them to jointly act within EMWIS, from the beginning of 1998 onward.

A cost estimate amounting to about 8MF/year for 3 years was also presented. As regards overall funding principles, it was agreed that :

1. each country takes charge of the funding of its national focal point;
2. the way of bearing the international expenses should be studied, based on a sharing to be defined between the countries of the European Union involved in EMWIS's Technical Unit and the European Commission.

Based on these agreements, IOW has now the main items necessary to finalize, with its 3 partners and in liaison with the European Commission, the final report of the study which will be transmitted to the 27 Water Directors at the beginning of November and which will form the basis of discussions at the Naples meeting. This report will have to be, first of all, synthetic (about 10 pages) and educational in order to make everyone understand the objectives of proposed operations and potential advantages of EMWIS.

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