

**Euro-Mediterranean Partnership**  
**Resolutions of**  
**Conference of the Water Directors**  
**Rome, 24-25 November 2005**

THE WATER GENERAL DIRECTORS OF ALGERIA, BELGIUM, CZECH REPUBLIC, CYPRUS, EGYPT, FINLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY, ISRAEL, ITALY, JORDAN, GREECE, LEBANON, MALTA, MOROCCO, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, TURKEY, UNITED KINGDOM AND THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY, AS WELL AS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE AND THE PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

participants to the conference of the Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water Sector –EMWIS– of Rome, 24-25 November 2005, in the frame of the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Barcelona Process,

- Recalling the adoption, in May 1990, of the Algiers Declaration, which asserted the importance of a common water management strategy, and reminding the adoption, in Rome in 1992, of the Mediterranean Water Charter, which has established the principle of regional and international co-operation in the water sector in the Mediterranean;
- Emphasizing the priority nature of water in the Declaration adopted in Barcelona in November 1995;
- Considering the principles of Euro-Mediterranean co-operation adopted at the end of the first Ministerial Conference on water, held in Marseilles in November 1996;
- Considering the EMWIS foundation principles adopted by the water directors in Naples in December 1997
- Considering the recommendations relative to water demand management in the Mediterranean, as set out by the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) and adopted in November 1997 by the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention
- Considering the documents created under the aegis of the Global Water Partnership and the World Water Council concerning global and Mediterranean projects for water, population and environment into the 21st century, during the course of the World Water Forum and the Ministerial Conference of The Hague in March 2000,
- Considering that water has been confirmed as one of the six main priority sectors of economic co-operation in the Mediterranean region during the Conference of Ministers of Foreign Affairs in Stuttgart in April 1999;
- Considering that the Declaration of the Turin Conference in October 1999 emphasizing the importance of EMWIS as a strategic tool for exchange of information to support the Action Plan for Water



- Considering the Millennium Development Goals on access to water and sanitation defined by the International Community in 2000, and the plans for efficient water resource management adopted during the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002
- Considering the Resolutions adopted by the Water Directors of Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Madrid in November 2001, noting the positive progress of the EMWIS and approving its plan of development
- Considering the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) adopted in Slovenia in November 2005 by the contracting parties of the Barcelona Convention
- Taking note that the general situation in the Mediterranean area requires more massive investments to give a more effective response to all the levels to guaranty a sustainable management of water resources and a quality water supply
- Taking note of the positive results of the activity of the Steering Committee and choices taken at its meetings, like the introduction of the Arabic language together with French and English
- Taking note of the achievements of EMWIS for its second phase (planned between 2003-2006), as well as the development strategy for the next ten years,

within the framework of the mandate, entrusted to them by the Ministers at the Turin conference in October 1999, to ensure the follow-up and the orientations for the implementation of the Action Plan, the Water Directors agreed on the following:

1. The improvement of information systems on water, aquatic environments and their use is one of the essential pillars for better governance and integrated water resources management. Such systems should be created or developed in each country as well as in the framework of the regional cooperation. Today, in the Mediterranean EMWIS is one of the most advanced examples in the World of what can be achieved in this field
2. The activity assessment of EMWIS implementation is highly positive and shows that this tool is the answer to a real need and to a strong demand of the partners according with the decision at the Ministerial Conferences of Marseilles (1996) and Turin (1999). The Water Directors agree to assert the sustainable nature of EMWIS which requires having the means to continue its long-term activity.
3. They recommend that the new four year programme covering the 2007-2010 period, takes the continuation, without any interruption, of the current phase and includes the following activities:
  - 3.1 To continue the operational implementation of EMWIS and the strengthening of the National Focal Points, the Technical Unit, with in particular the following activities:
    - a) Strengthening of the National Focal Points by technical assistance, and for the partner countries who are interested, by support to search for complementary financial and technical aid for the implementation and development of their National Water Information System;
    - b) Operating, exploiting and promoting the International Focal Point to maintain and improve the services offered by EMWIS according to



- current developments of the water sector and technological innovation in the field of Information Communication Technologies,
- c) Preparing regional thematic synthesis of experiences on issues of common interest defined by the countries themselves,
  - d) Encouraging the sharing of know-how, the dissemination of information, and the exploitation of results from existing and future initiatives in favour of a better water management in the region,
  - e) Developing the role of EMWIS as a technical platform and support for the Joint Process between the Water Framework Directive and the Mediterranean component of the EU Water Initiative
  - f) Reinforcing EMWIS role for the information dissemination on the European Union programmes in the region and the national programmes for the countries with transboundary water resources.
  - g) Study, with interested countries, the objectives and the feasibility of building up within EMWIS a regional water observation mechanism to monitor the indicators towards the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals related to water and sanitation in the Mediterranean, as well as the implementation of the water related section of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development, based on the information provided by the National Water Information Systems, whenever they exist.
  - h) Continuation, in coordination with the National Focal Points, of the contacts established with the other international initiatives with the aim to coordinate, as far as possible, the activities and the development of the joint actions and to collaborate with similar regional initiatives that exist or may develop in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe.
  - i) Expanding products in Arabic language

3.2 To open the EMWIS to the Mediterranean countries not signatories of the Barcelona Declaration, who would request it officially, in particular the Balkan countries and Libya

3.3 To define the conditions for financing, with a budget currently estimated at approximately 3,400 M€ for this 4-years programme 2007-2010, in the continuity of the current system and structure:

- a) EMWIS Technical Unit activities, with the support of France, Italy and Spain and the European Union, for its tasks of regional coordination, support and technical assistance to the National Focal Points, development of the international information portal, and more generally the above mentioned activities,
- b) Strengthening the support to the National Focal Points and, for interested partner countries, the assistance to the implementation or enhancement of their national water information systems with the co-financing support of the European Commission
- c) Initiate the creation of National Focal Points and national water information systems in the Mediterranean countries not signatories of the Barcelona Declaration



4. They express their wish that the EMWIS should serve as a useful tool for ensuring coherency between Euro-Med Partnership policy and that of the Mediterranean Action Plan,
5. They propose that their Euro Mediterranean Conference of Water Directors serves as institutional support for the implementation of the European Union Water Initiative in the region.
6. The Water Directors wish that the bi and multilateral donors, especially the European Commission and the Member States of the European Union, ensure sufficient financial resources to meet the development needs of the water sector in the Mediterranean area.
7. The Water Directors welcome the participation to this conference, for the first time, of the representatives from Libya, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia-Montenegro, as observers,
8. The Water Directors proposed the renewal of the EMWIS governance structures for a period of 4 years:
  - 8.1 The Steering Committee will be composed by the following countries: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority. France will take the Presidency of the Steering Committee. Lebanon and Morocco will take the Vice-Presidency.
  - 8.2 The Presidency of the Coordination Committee will be taken by Algeria and the Vice-Presidency by Cyprus
  - 8.3 The creation of a General Secretariat of EMWIS in charge of permanent relations with the European Commission and the Partnership Countries, for which the responsibility was entrusted to Mr. Walter MAZZITTI, Honorary President of EMWIS.
- 9 The Water Directors ask the Italian Minister of Environment, the British Presidency of the EU and the President of the Steering Committee:
  - 9.1 To transmit these Resolutions to the European Commission and to the Ministers in charge of water in the EU member states and in the Partnership countries, in particular within the context of the events planned for the 10th anniversary of Barcelona declaration,
  - 9.2 To present to the Euromed Committee the results obtained by the System, which is a concrete example of cooperation in the spirit of the Euro Mediterranean Partnership, in the strategic sector of water.
- 10 The participants acknowledge the Italian Government for having held their conference in Rome.
- 11 They congratulate Mr. Juan CANOVAS for the dynamic and constructive way with which he ensured the EMWIS Presidency since the Madrid Conference in November 2001, and for the concrete progress of the System achieved during his Presidency.

Done at **Rome on November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

