

Brussels, 24th November 2008

Dear EWP Board and EWP Board of Advice Member,

The first milestone of our project 'Water Vision for Europe' has been set on 30th of June 2008, when the basic vision text has been launched within a high-ranked event in the European Parliament in Brussels.

We are currently setting up regional workshops across Europe to point out specific needs or topics of each European region that go beyond the basic text (like priority setting or adding of region-specific topics).

With this letter we would like to invite you to actively participate in these workshops and to provide you with the dates as well as with more details on the first regional workshop.

The following regional workshops will take place:

- **3rd December 2008 – Castellon (Spain) for Southern Europe**
- **8th&9th January 2009 – Copenhagen (Denmark) for Northern Europe**
- **26th January 2009 – Vienna (Austria) for CEE**
- **4th&5th February 2009 – Brussels (Belgium) for Western Europe and UNECE countries**

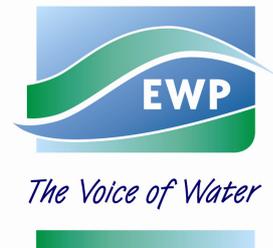
Southern Europe Regional Workshop -3rd December 2008

The EWP together with the City Of Castellón and with the Regional Government of Valencia are organising the **Southern Europe regional workshop on the Water Vision for Europe**, which will take place **3rd December in Castellón**, Valencian Region, Spain, related to the joint European preparations for the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009.

The preparations for the Forum are reaching its final phase and important parts of the Forum are the policy inputs from the main regions in the world, including Europe. The European process towards the Forum is coordinated by the European Water Partnership and includes preparation of a regional event in Istanbul as well as a regional document with policy recommendations on water in Europe.

The aims of this Southern Europe regional workshop are:

- to disclose region-specific priorities for sustainable water management in Southern Europe,
- to elaborate the status quo – which vision aims are already covered through projects and activities,
- to analyse the missing or overlapping actions,
- to identify main obstacles to the implementation of the vision goals



This vision mapping will create a memorandum of actions which will lead to recommendations for policy making. The result of the Mediterranean Workshop will be the Declaration of Castellón. Finally, the results of all regional workshops will be added to the Water Vision for Europe and presented during the Forum as a European output from the regional consultation process as well as a European contribution to the Forum.

With a strong interactive focus, the workshop should provide the feedback from stakeholders regarding the Water Vision for Europe. The participants will also be able to display dissemination material about their projects and present them as best practices.

We hope that you are able to participate. You may also participate with your information or documents, and we also invite you to disseminate this information among your contacts that might be interested. We attach the programme, registration form, the working document for the Water Vision as well as information about the 5th World Water Forum, the regional European preparations, the Vision and "Aquawareness".

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Agnes Biesiekierska either at a.biesiekierska@ewp.eu or by phone: 0032 2 735 06 81.

With reference to the other regional workshops, we kindly invite you to visit our website www.ewp.eu for regular updates.

We look forward to seeing you in Castellón.

The EWP Team

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. von Wirén-Lehr', is written in a cursive style.

Sabine von Wirén-Lehr
Projects Coordinator EWP

3rd December 2008

**Southern Europe Regional Workshop
on the Water Vision for Europe
Castellón, Valencian Region, Spain**

Tuesday, 2nd December 2008: WELCOME RECEPTION

20:00 Participants arrival and welcome reception

Castellón City Council

Wednesday, 3rd December 2008: WATER FORUM

09:00 Registration

09:30 Opening:

Representative of the Valencian Government (tbc)

Mr. Alberto Fabra, Mayor of Castellón de la Plana

Mr. Fritz Barth, Representative of the European Water Partnership.

10:15 Presentation of the Water Vision for Europe

Mr. Fritz Barth, Representative of the European Water Partnership.

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 Discussion groups

13:30 Lunch

15:00 Discussion groups

16:30 Coffee break

16:45 Internal meeting of the spokesmen of the discussion groups

16:45 Good practices examples

Traditional and modern water management of Mijares river 1200-2008

Mr. José Pascual, President of the Federation of Irrigators Communities of the Valencian Region

Project Aqua-control, Interreg IIIB SUDOE

Mr. José Francisco Fabra, Head of Services, Castellón Provincial Council

European network on water, Waterregio

Mr. Alfonso Alcolea, coordinator Water department, Fundación Comunidad Valenciana- Región Europea

17:45 Conclusions and adoption of the Declaration of Castellón

Representative of the Valencian Government (tbc)

Mr. Alberto Fabra, Mayor of Castellón de la Plana

Mr. Fritz Barth, Representative of the European Water Partnership

18:15 Closing

Thursday, 3rd december 2008: TECHNICAL VISITS

9:30 Visit to the sewage treatment plant of Castellón.

11:00 Visit to the irrigation head of Lledó

Visit to the irrigation head of Fadrell

13:00 Visit to the Laboratory IPROMA

14:00 Lunch in a restaurant next to Sta. Quiteria's chapel of Almazora and next to the river Mijares.

15:30 Visit to Santa Quiteria's dam (ancient system of water distribution) and to the Central Irrigator's Union.

The Southern European Seminar is supported by the Fundación Agua y Progreso

Castellón Town Council:

Plaza Mayor 1

12001 Castellón De La Plana, Spain

www.castello.es

Auditorio y Palacio de Congresos:

Avenida Virgen De Lidón 50

12003 Castellón De La Plana, Spain

<http://www.palaudecongressos.com>

Water for a sustainable Europe – our vision for 2030

We have achieved sustainable water resource management and universal access to modern and safe water supply and sanitation because we value water in all its dimensions – in its economic, social, environmental and cultural importance.



Launching version

30th June 2008

The European Water Vision wants to be a vision for all people in Europe and all stakeholders. Formulated from the viewpoint of the people and stakeholders in a very positive spirit it seeks to stimulate ownership by everyone. The vision puts the people and values into the centre. Only if we mobilise many people and stakeholders around common values we will be able to achieve sustainability with regard to water in Europe. The vision wants to unite and to stimulate people and stakeholders for joint action in partnership to solve the water problems in Europe and for a significant contribution to overcome the global water crisis.

The present text was developed in an inclusive process by European stakeholders initiated by the European Water Partnership (EWP) and will be the starting point for a wide consultation process in the different European Regions. Via regional workshops and modern consultation technologies we will try to reach as many people and stakeholders as possible. The strength of Europe is its diversity and the objective of the consultation process is to reflect this diversity in the final version which should be presented to a global audience at the World Water Forum in March 2009 in Istanbul.

The current political crisis of Europe is in the first place a crisis of a clear common vision that people can understand and feel part of it. The water vision and its inclusive process want to contribute to overcome this crucial problem for Europe.

1. We treat water as our common heritage with an economic, social, environmental and cultural value for our societies. Water is not a commodity like any other one – it's a fragile resource which can not be replaced and we protect and preserve it for future generations to sustain our societies, our economies and the environment. Water sustainability is crucial for us.
2. Water is an essential human need and we recognize the access to basic water supply and sanitation as a human right. The people in Europe have universal access to safe, modern and affordable water and sanitation services. At the same time we are able to satisfy the other human water needs – for businesses, industry, agriculture and recreation and have achieved a balance with needs of the environment also with regard to sustain biodiversity. We can rely on essential ecosystem services from our healthy rivers, lakes, coastal waters and wetlands and our people can also enjoy high quality rivers, lakes and coastal waters for ecologic and recreational purposes.
3. We manage our water resources sustainable within river basins across political boundaries including transboundary waters and we apply an integrated adaptive water management approach. All the stakeholders including all inhabitants in the basin participate actively in the management decision process. We apply a preventive approach which integrates quality and quantity as well as surface water, groundwater and coastal waters. We have adopted and implemented ambitious legislation such as the Water Framework Directive and other related legislation and made other policy areas such as agriculture, regional, industrial, trade, transport and energy policy 'water sensitive'.
4. We have achieved a true 'water democracy' where we apply the principles of transparency, integrity, solidarity and equity and where all people and stakeholders are aware of their rights and responsibilities. Our well informed people use their freedom of choice wisely - what they drink and how they use water - and use their opportunity to participate actively in the governance of water management and services. The people have a say in the quality and organization of their services and our services are efficient and sensitive to environmental and social needs.
5. We have jointly achieved a culture where water resources are not wasted, spoiled or overused. We have actively pushed a paradigm shift from supply driven water management to an integrated supply and demand driven approach as well as from an end of pipe to a preventive approach. We are able to satisfy most of our needs with water resources within the same river basin.

6. We have achieved a change of mindset, attitude and practices through raising water awareness and the application of appropriate instruments and incentives. Proven sustainable water practices, pricing and charging policies, transparency about water footprints of individual, industrial, agricultural and local authorities' practices and of products have been useful instruments in achieving a modern water efficient society.
7. Water services have a price. We pay for services and for the uses and our pricing policies are guided by transparency, sustainability, efficiency as well as a social and environmental approach. We use water pricing and other economic instruments to achieve sustainable water use.
8. We are coping with the challenges of climate change as well as with the natural phenomena such as floods and droughts as we are continuously improving our adaptive, integrated management approach and we adapted our infrastructure and practices. Our infrastructure is planned, constructed, operated and maintained in an efficient and environmental and social acceptable manner based on a long term perspective.
9. We apply appropriate technologies and have thereby continuously improved our water efficiency and minimized pollution to a level which is negligible with regard to human and environmental health. Communities, agriculture and industry enjoy the economic and social benefits of a high level of water productivity by applying recycling technologies, closed production cycles and efficient irrigation techniques and other technologies. We promote and conduct research and development to continuously improve our know how on adaptive integrated management and innovative technological solutions and have achieved a fast track to bring those technologies to the markets.
10. Europe is a responsible partner in the world that actively promotes and supports the achievement of sustainable water management and universal access to water supply and sanitation in all countries. We have understood that sustainable water management is key to peace and security and to eradicate poverty and have made water a priority of our foreign and development policy. Our trade and economic policies have integrated water issues and we have significantly reduced our global water footprint to a level that is sustainable.

Organisations and Institutions contributing to the

Europe's Water Vision

Aquafed
Austrian Chamber of Commerce
Austrian Ministry of Environment
Breivoll
CEJA
Coca Cola Europe
Coca Cola HBC
CSR Europe
DHI
DOW
European Commission – DG Environment
European Landowners Organization (ELO)
European Parliament
EUREAU
EWA
French Water Partnership
German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear
Safety
GIG
Global Nature Fund
IBM
ICLEI
Institute of Advanced Studies on Sustainability
IWA
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Slovenia
Netherlands Water Partnership
P&G
Quest Ltd.
Valenciana Region
Solidarity Water Europe
TNO Science and Industry
Tuscany Region
WBCSD/Alcan
Weber Shandwick
WECF
Women for Water Partnership
WWF EPO

Initiated by EWP

European Regional Process

Fifth World Water Forum 2009 - Istanbul



Fifth World Water Forum

"Bridging Divides for Water"

In March 2009 the fifth World Water Forum will take place in Istanbul. Over the last 12 years, the World Water Fora have grown to be major events, connecting all stakeholders on water. In 2009, over 20000 people are expected to attend again, combining politicians, businesses and NGO's to find solutions to attain sustainable water use under the overarching theme "Bridging divides for Water".

To prepare for this Forum a thematic as well as a regional process has been set up and thematic and regional coordinators have been selected. The thematic coordinators formed consortia to develop their respective theme, topics and sessions. Seeing that issues differ across regions, the regional coordinators will develop these themes in their regional context and provide region-specific input into the Forum. The European Water Partnership is the **Regional Coordinator for Europe**.

For more information on the Forum, please visit www.worldwaterforum5.org.

Important upcoming dates:

- **5 November:** European Policy Summit on Water, Brussels.
- **15 November – 1 December:** possibility to comment on first drafts of Reg. Doc.
- **8-9 January '09:** Regional Workshop in Copenhagen

European Regional Process (ERP)

The objectives of the ERP are to:

1. *Develop the Forum-themes from a regional perspective*

The first meeting of the ERP in February identified eight key themes to be addressed:

- Future of Water in Europe
- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Water for Energy, Energy for Water
- Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation
- Finance
- Sanitation
- Water Scarcity and Droughts
- Water Science and Technologies

For each of these themes a consortium has been brought together and a coordinator selected.

The goal of the ERP is to result in a clear statement on the current situation in Europe, the European challenges, experiences and best practices, building on the Regional Process for the fourth World Water Forum. This information will be presented in the European Regional Document, leading to a set of policy recommendations (policy actions that need to be taken to address the remaining challenges) and key messages (what does Europe have to offer in terms of experiences).

2. *Represent geographic Europe*

The ERP mobilises actors in the whole geographic Europe and acts as a catalyst for specific contributions to the Forum. The ERP makes use of existing networks, initiatives and conferences to enable challenges and solutions of the whole Europe to be taken into account, focusing specifically on the Eastern and Southern regions.



At the Forum the European participation will achieve extra focus through the planned European Water Village. This Area at the EXPO will bring together the European participants and will provide extra opportunities and incentives for business and politicians to join the Forum.

3. *Connect European politicians to the Forum*

The Forum is very much focused on achieving political results. It aims to raise awareness among politicians about water issues in order to create an enabling environment to address those issues. The political process will concentrate on the theme: "Water Management Adaptation Strategies for Global Changes, including Climate Change/Variability" and the discussion will take place at three levels: Ministers, Parliamentarians and Local Authorities. The Ministerial level will culminate in a Ministerial agenda.

The ERP has contributed to this important process by organising- together with Friends of Europe - the [European Policy Summit on Water](#), which took place on November 5 2008 in Brussels.

The "Discussion Paper" preparing the ministerial agenda is available at www.ewp.eu/erp09. Your comments are welcome before 15 November.

Contacts:

European Water Partnership

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www.ewp.eu

The ERP has outlined **three main outputs** to be prepared for the Forum:

- [European Regional Document:](#)
This Document will present the work of the European Regional Process and provide an overview of the actions taken per theme, the European challenges and the European policy recommendations and key messages. The drafts of the first chapters will be ready and available on the website of the ERP by the 15th November 2008. We invite you to send your comments and suggestions before 1 December 2008.

Contributions to the actual writing of the Document are also much welcomed. Please inform us if you would like to contribute at h.riedstra@ewp.eu.

- [European Regional Session at the Forum:](#)
The European Session will take place at the Forum, bringing together high-level representatives from business, NGO's, politics and research to discuss the results of the ERP.

- [Inputs in the thematic sessions at the Forum:](#)
The fifth World Water Forum's thematic programme will consist of a 100 sessions, each addressing one specific key question. The ERP feeds into this process, providing the European perspectives on the themes.

Be part of the ERP!

The ERP offers a lot of opportunities to take part and we would very much welcome your contribution to writing the Regional Document, to the Regional Session or on the European Water Village to present your own activities. For more information or any other suggestions to contribute, please contact the European Water Partnership.

Aquawareness

The European Water Awareness and Water Stewardship Program



Aquawareness

The new voluntary program Aquawareness sets sights on changing behaviour and practices, shaping and integrating water into policy and strategy agendas as well as creating a water saving and efficiency culture among private, industrial, business and agricultural users. Through information, education and training a paradigm shift from supply to demand management shall be achieved.

European Water Vision

In order to position common goals and objectives for the European water sector, a Water Vision for Europe has been worked out in a multi stakeholder process. The Vision shall serve as a joint basic starting point for both – policy making and future project setting of the European water sector - and therefore unites stakeholders to joint action on advanced water management. Actually, the vision already underpins the project settings of the European Water Awareness and Water Stewardship Program.

European Water Awareness Program

This programme directs to introduce a water saving and water efficiency culture among political decision makers, key stakeholders and inhabitants within Europe. The basic tool to implement awareness on sustainable water use on all social and geographical levels is to make information on sustainable water use available for everybody. Improved information creates transparency on the water situation and ensures a realistic and objective decision making process on all levels. In that way, the program encourages the change of behaviour, practices or habits and supports an efficient policy making process.

Water Stewardship Program

The objectives of this program are to establish and provide a voluntary scheme for sustainable water use that:

- Becomes an extensively adopted instrument for sustainable water management crossing public, private and sectoral barriers
- Promotes water to become integral part of policy and business agendas
- Creates knowledge&transparency on production and consumption patterns
- Presents a common framework for assessing, implementing and communicating sustainable water management

Aquawareness modules

ONGOING MODULES:

EUROPEAN WATER VISION:

MODULE E1: Regional workshops and project mapping

MODULE E2: Vision film

AWARENESS PROGRAM:

MODULE A1: Young people – Generation Blue International

MODULE A2: Summer School for decision makers

MODULE A3: Internet platform

MODULE A4: European Water Barometer

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:

MODULE S1: Assessment and communication of Sustainable Water Management

MODULE S2: Implementation study

ENVISAGED MODULES:

AWARENESS PROGRAM:

MODULE A5: Initiating&supporting water campaigns in pilot regions

MODULE A6: European River and Lake Days

MODULE A7: European Water Awareness Bus tour

MODULE A8: European Fair on water campaigns

MODULE A9: European Water Awards

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM:



Be part of Aquawareness!

Aquawareness aims to be as inclusive and interactive as possible, trying to reach stakeholders in all corners of Europe.

Get involved in Aquawareness by:

- Participating in our meetings and activities
- Joining our projects and modules
- Expressing your vision on the future of Europe's water
- Sharing your best practices and knowledge on sustainable water management
- Supporting the shift of mindset in Europe towards a water saving and efficient culture
- Becoming a strategic partner of the programme
- Benefitting from access to a large network of water specialists and link to main stakeholders

Aquawareness is crucial

Many stakeholders do not know the situation in their region, city or river basin. Nor do they know how they could contribute to a more efficient and sustainable use of limited resources. Engaging global actors in strategic partnerships, Aquawareness aims to become the most widely adopted sustainable water tool crossing public, private and sectoral barriers.

Strategic partner:

The Coca-Cola Company

Supporting partners:

BASF AP, Danish Water Forum, EUREAU, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (Austria), French Water Partnership, IBM, ICLEI, Netherlands Water Partnership, Norit, Valenciana Region, WETSUS, Women for Water, WWF EPO

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Aquawareness and the European Water Vision were developed in close cooperation with MEP Dr. Richard Seeber

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