

**CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF NAPLES
OF THE DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR WATER
ON THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN INFORMATION SYSTEM
ON THE KNOW-HOW IN THE WATER SECTOR**

NAPLES, 9 - 10 DECEMBER 1997

The representatives of the participants in the Barcelona process, meeting at Naples on 9 and 10 December 1997 in implementation of the decision taken at the Ministerial Conference on local water management held at Marseille on 25-26 November 1996, and the activities which followed at Amman and Valencia,

CONSIDERING that, in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Barcelona Declaration, the 27 Ministers responsible for water resources management had decided on that occasion to establish a Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the Know-how in the Water Sector (EMWIS),

RECALLING that, on the basis of that decision, an Euro-Mediterranean technical Working Group of the Partnership composed of 10 partners and the Commission, has prepared a feasibility study on the System,

CONSIDERING that the Environment Ministers, meeting at the Conference of Helsinki, recalling the results of the Conference of Marseilles, have taken note of the

establishment of the EMWIS and in this respect have referred to the Conference of Naples as the venue for its creation,

have agreed on the following:

1. The principle of the establishment of EMWIS as a supporting tool for an information system on methodologies and know-how in the water sector, and also as a tool for strengthening co-operation in this sector whenever possible, is confirmed; the EMWIS project, as presented, discussed during the meeting, and annexed to these conclusions, is approved. Its adoption, which is the fruit of a broad preparatory process, provides a common basis for co-operation in the know-how for the suitable management and the development of water resources.
2. EMWIS will be charged with functions related to information exchanges on the know-how in the water sector, the development of which may be decided upon in a cooperation framework involving Mediterranean partners, such as the Mediterranean Water Network.
3. The organisational structure and functioning of EMWIS are the following:
 - each partner will establish, designate and ensure the functioning of, a Focal Point charged with the dissemination of checked and validated information on the network as well as network promotion at the national level; the European Commission will facilitate co-operation between EMWIS and the Institutions of the European Union involved in the water sector, particularly the European Environment Agency.
 - the network will be based on a computer-based information telecommunication system using European as well as any other appropriate specialized networks;
 - EMWIS will be co-ordinated by a Co-ordination Committee, comprising of representatives of Focal Points, assisted by a small Technical Unit composed by those partners ready to contribute to its financing and to take charge for its functioning;

- the project will be supervised by a Steering Committee, composed of 10 representatives, including those of the partners participating to the Technical Unit, and the European Commission; the Steering Committee has been designated at Naples by the 27 partners and will be renewed for the first time three years after the Conference of Naples. The General Directors will then appoint the new Committee and agree on the modalities and timing of future renewals.
- for an interim period of 3 years, required for the effective inception of the overall functions of EMWIS, the project is entrusted to a consortium of operating bodies designated by the partners participating to the Technical Unit.

The implementation of EMWIS will follow the work programme and the financial framework presented and discussed during the meeting and annexed to the present document.

After the first period of activities of EMWIS, it will be appropriate to make an assessment of progress, leading to the identification of priorities for future action in the water information sector. Such an assessment should be conducted at half-way and at the end of the project.

The organisation and functioning of the national focal points remain within the responsibility of EMWIS participating partners.

Each Partner will analyse and assess the impact of progress accomplished through EMWIS on the transfer of know-how in the local planning and management of water resources. The outcomes will be shared through EMWIS.

4. Within the follow-up actions to be taken in implementation of EMWIS, priority will be given to the creation and strengthening of National Focal Points for the collection, preparation and dissemination of information on the know-how in water management.

5. It is desirable that National Focal Points, based on the experience of EMWIS, would contribute to the identification for co-operation whenever possible.
6. The Directors General have noted that France, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom, as well as the European Commission, have marked an interest for EMWIS and will examine favourably a financial participation to the implementation of the project.
7. The representatives of the participants in the Barcelona process, encouraged by the very constructive spirit that characterized the Conference of Naples, intend to undertake further actions for the implementation of the principles and objectives defined at Marseille. It is desirable that additional co-operation initiatives be undertaken in the framework of economic and environmental initiatives for the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region and in order to achieve further progress towards the objectives defined at Barcelona with reference to the water sector.

Addendum to the Conclusions of the Conference of Naples

Annexes:

- EMWIS PROJECT DOCUMENT
- FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

ADDENDUM

AUX CONCLUSIONS DE LA CONFERENCE DE NAPLES DES DIRECTEURS GENERAUX DE L'EAU SUR LE SYSTEME EURO-MEDITERRANEEN D'INFORMATION SUR LE SAVOIR- FAIRE DANS LE DOMAINE DE L'EAU

NAPLES, les 9-10 Décembre 1997

1. Les partenaires qui se sont engagés à la création des Points Focaux et qui communiqueront par écrit au Président du Comité Directeur, M. Walter Mazzitti, les indications pertinentes sont les suivants: Algérie, Allemagne, Chypre, Egypte, Espagne, Finlande, France, Jordanie, Israël, Italie, Liban, Luxembourg, Malte, Maroc, Pays-Bas, Portugal, Royaume Uni, Syrie, Tunisie, Turquie et Autorité Palestinienne.
2. Les partenaires qui se sont engagés à contribuer au financement du système feront connaître les modalités de ce financement avant la fin de février. La Commission Européenne, pour sa part, examinera favorablement la possibilité de contribuer au financement du SEMIDE et en fera connaître les modalités.
3. Le Comité Directeur sera formé par les dix partenaires qui ont participé au Groupe de Travail: Algérie, Chypre, Espagne, France, Jordanie, Italie, Malte, Maroc, Royaume Uni et l'Autorité Palestinienne.
4. La Présidence du Comité Directeur sera assurée par l'Italie et la Vice-Présidence par la Jordanie.
5. L'Algérie assurera la Présidence et la France la Vice-Présidence du Comité de Coordination.
6. La première réunion du Comité Directeur aura lieu avant la fin de mars. L'Unité Technique fera un premier rapport à l'intention des Directeurs Généraux sur les modalités à suivre pour assurer une gestion harmonisée des Points Focaux.
7. Le Comité Directeur présentera en temps utile aux partenaires un projet sur le mode de fonctionnement du Comité même et de l'Unité Technique ainsi qu'une première relation sur le programme de travail.