

European Water Partnership

Facts and Figures 2006



The European Water Partnership is the European action-oriented open forum that unites all stakeholders to harness European innovative capacity, exchange views and stimulate partnerships to help address world water challenges.

Introduction

2006 has been a very important year for the European Water Partnership (EWP). In March, the Partnership was created by sixteen founding organisations. During the year this number has more than doubled and currently stands at 35 organisations from eleven European countries. The members of the EWP come from all stakeholder groups: private sector, governments, knowledge institutes and NGO's.

In 2006 the EWP has been able to show various activities to further its objectives. This document gives a summary of these activities and those planned for 2007.



European Policy Summit

Policy Summit

On the 20th of June the European Water Partnership, in close cooperation with Friends of Europe and with the support of Veolia Environnement and the WSSTP, organized the first European Policy Summit titled 'The World's Water Crisis – Turning the tide, policies for the future'. Held in the magnificent Bibliothèque Solvay in Brussels, this event offered an opportunity to debate the international water crisis before an audience of about 200 EU and national policymakers, regional and municipal officials, business and NGO representatives, academic experts and the international press. It examined not only environmental and sustainable development issues, but also the potential for economic growth, technological innovation and increasing competitiveness in the water sector. For this purpose the programme was divided in three sessions, with different panels of high-level experts.

The second European Policy Summit is being planned for May 2007

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Thanks to our members



Please feel free to forward this document to any organisation you think might be interested in its contents. A copy of these *Facts and Figures* can also be downloaded at the website of the EWP at www.ewp.eu.

Partnership Meeting

On October 25th the European Water Partnership held its first Partnership Meeting in its new headquarters in Brussels. The aim of this meeting was to bring the members up to date on the activities of the EWP and discuss the future direction of the Partnership. Furthermore the topics of project initiatives the EWP aims to set up in 2007 were discussed

At this meeting the five pillar organisational set-up of the Partnership was agreed and the first five modules were established. Each module will include a number of projects on a certain subject. More information on this set-up can be found on page three of this document.



Congresses

Below you will find a selection of Congresses in which the EWP participated in 2006.

March:

- Participation in the European Regional Process for WWF4 in Mexico.

May:

- Participation in the Green Week in Brussels.

June:

- Presentation given on the Conference on Regional Innovation in Slovenia.

September:

- Presentation given to the General Assembly of German Water in Cologne.
- Involvement in the Stockholm Water Week.

October:

- Participation in panel discussions at the Entsorga-Enteco Fair in Cologne.
- Presentation given at UBS Freshwater Conference, London.
- Participation in International Living Lakes Conference, China.

November:

- The EWP participated in a congress on eco-innovation, held in conjunction with the International Ecological Fair in Poland. The Partnership provided a rapporteur and a moderator on invitation by the Commission.
- The EWP is an associated partner of the European Water Congress in London and delivered a speech in the main programme.

December:

- Keynote speech delivered to the Anque International Congress of Chemistry, Tenerife.
- Participation in the concluding panel of the Bruges' Conference "Delivering Sustainable Growth in the European Union", co-organized by the College of Europe
- Presentation given and participation in the concluding panel at the launch of the UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science in Brussels.

Other ongoing initiatives

- Joint initiative for a Platform Water Re-use. First meeting being held at Aquatech 2006, hosted by Paques B.V.
- Joint initiative for a project on sanitation technology in Eastern Europe. Developed in cooperation with various members and businesses.
- Involving the European mining industry in the water sector.
- Cooperation initiated with the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD) to carry out their recently published water scenarios.
- Involving major water users in the water sector.
- Cooperation initiated with the recently established UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science.
- International Congress on Water Security planned in early 2008, in cooperation with the American Water Resources Association and the UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science.
- Initiative to develop a Centre for Small Enterprises in the field of Water and Environment.

Communication

- Website established. Large increase in number of visitors as website expanded.
- First newsletter of EWP published. A copy of this newsletter can be downloaded from the website at www.ewp.eu.
- Negotiations with various media partners.
- Initiative for more centralized dissemination of European water news.



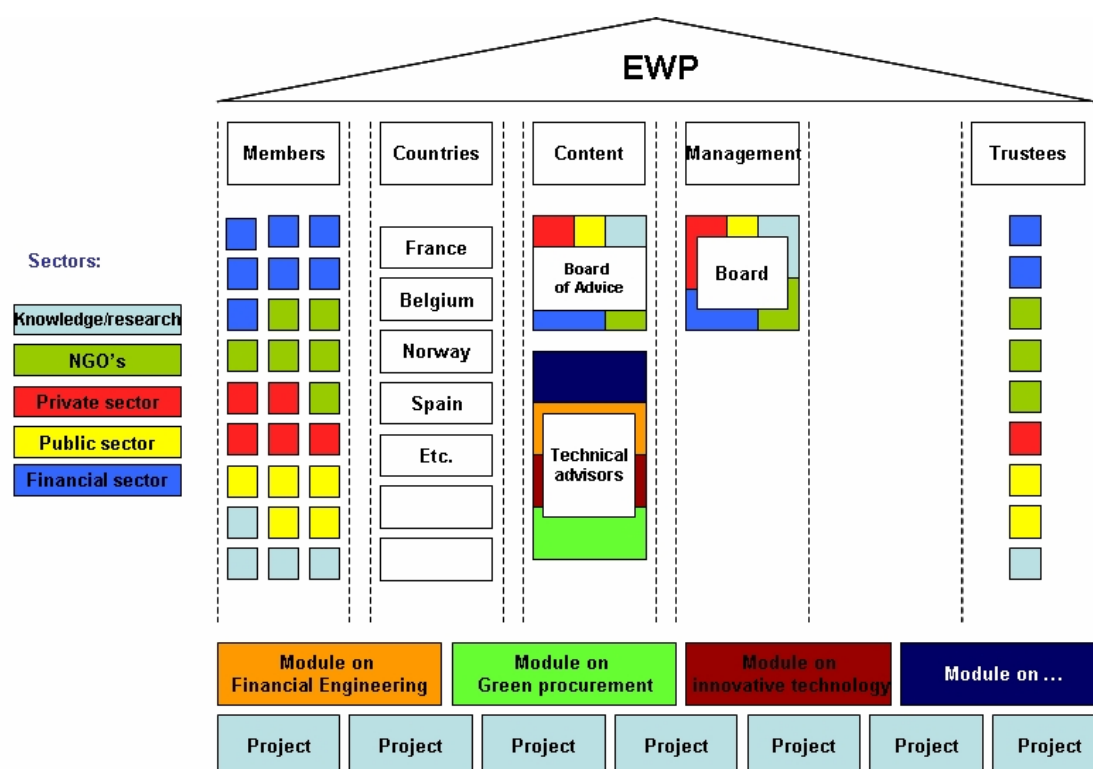
Partnership Meeting, 25 October

Contacts with the European Institutions

- The European Water Partnership has provided input in various programmes of the European Commission, including the new Life+ Programme and the sixth Environmental Action Programme evaluation. The EWP also urged for an increased attention for water in the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP). Some recommendations were acknowledged in a personal letter by President Barroso.
- The EWP participated in the European Forum on Eco-Innovation.
- Members of the European Parliament, together with the EWP, took the initiative to create an Issue Group on Water.
- Initiated cooperation with DG Environment on three subjects for 2007:
 - o Water scarcity
 - o Neighborhood policy issues on water
 - o Water and economy

Organisation

At the Partnership Meeting in October 2006 the five pillar organisational set-up was agreed: 'members', 'countries', 'content', 'management' and 'trustees'. In all these Pillars all five stakeholder groups are being represented: 'knowledge/research', 'NGO's', 'private sector', 'public sector' and 'financial sector'. The projects initiated from 2007 will form the foundations of the Partnership. It is intended that each module will include a number of projects.



Modules

For 2007, five modules are defined by the Partnership Meeting.

- Financial Engineering.
- A Business Ambitious Response to water issues.
- Technological Innovation.
- Water and Green Procurement Guidelines.
- Water and Health.

Furthermore, two more modules are being prepared:

- Water security.
- Deltatechnology: Risk management and flood control.



Office:

In October 2006 the European Water Partnership moved into its new offices at the Avenue de Tervuren in Brussels. These offices give the EWP a permanent presence in the heart of Brussels and provide opportunities to its members to organize meetings and workshops. The daily operations of the Partnership are run from these offices by the staff of the EWP under the supervision of the Board.

- Lionel Platteuw, Executive Director
- Helen Pilkington, Membership and Communications Manager
- Attie Kuiken, Project Officer
- Harro Riedstra, Project Coordinator
- Sandra Borst, Secretarial Assistance

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A selection of future planned activities:

2007

- Participation in Aquaterra 2007. Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 7-9 February.
- Participation in Panel Session at the Climate Change and Vulnerability Conference of the University for Peace. The Hague, The Netherlands, 13-14 February.
- The EWP is a partner of the Water and Environmental Exchange (WEX). Seville, Spain, 7-9 March.
- European Policy Summit on Water II, in cooperation with Friends of Europe
- The Resource Efficiency Alliance. A Business Response: Water and Climate Change.
- EU China platform on water. (to be confirmed)

2008

- Conference on Water Security, in cooperation with UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science and the American Water Resources Association. (to be confirmed)



The offices of the EWP in Brussels