

DATE:	12 May 2009 - 9h30 – 16h
VENUE:	Novotel - Monaco
SUBJECT:	EMWIS Steering Committee - Meeting n°13 ANNEXE
	Review of activities carried out in 2008 and related budget



1. Review of activities carried out in 2008

Year 2008 milestones:

- **Completion, on June 30th, of the contract signed in December 2003** (ref. ME8/AIDCO/2003/004763/069442 - budget: € 3,332,420 including 60% subsidized by the Commission) by the European Commission (DG EuropeAid) and the three partners of the Technical Unit: IOWater (France), CEDEX (Spain) and SOGESID (Italy). The final project report and the financial audit report were submitted to the Commission in December 2008, after consolidation of accounts.
- Launching of a **new contract with the DG Environment** of the Commission (ref. 21.0401/2007/485730/SUB/D2 - ENRTP¹ 2007 programme) dealing with the interface with the Water Information System for Europe -WISE- (January 2008 - June 2009, budget: € 375,000 including 80% subsidized by the Commission).
- A **new request for financing** which was submitted to the DG Environment (ENRTP 2008 programme) for the 2009-2010 period, whose budget was already approved (budget: € 187,500 including 80% subsidized by the Commission).
- **Early transfer of the Presidency of EMWIS Steering Committee** from France to Italy, which took place in Athens on 21 July, as a side event of the 5th conference of the Water Directors of the Euro-Mediterranean countries and South-East Europe, Mr. Pascal Berteaud, who was the French Water Director and President of EMWIS Steering Committee, being appointed to a new position at the beginning of July. On behalf of Italy, Mr. Walter Mazzitti has taken over French responsibilities. It was decided that the renewal of the members of the Steering Committee, including the vice-presidency as well as the presidency and vice-presidency of the Coordination Committee, would be made during the next meeting of the Euromed Water Directors (or assimilated) in 2009.
- **Ministerial water conference** of the Union for the Mediterranean, co-chaired by France, Egypt and Jordan, which took place on the shore of the Dead Sea in Jordan on **22 December 2008**. This conference concretised the efforts made by EMWIS and the Mediterranean water community for a better recognition of this sector within the regional cooperation policy. The declaration of this conference requested the preparation of a regional water strategy, of structuring projects and highlighted the significance of water information and data at the national and regional levels. There is no doubt that the activities undertaken by EMWIS could certainly be developed within this framework.

1.1. Overall coordination and management

The following meetings were held:

- Board of Directors and Follow-up of the Technical Unit: three meetings were held in April, May and September 2008, respectively in Sophia Antipolis, Paris and again in Sophia Antipolis, in order to determine the financial activities and needs for the year and, in addition, the practical methods for the change of Presidency, the preparation of the next meeting of the Steering Committee and the preparation of a French-Italian-Spanish joint proposal for a Mediterranean information and resources network using EMWIS assets.
- The 8th meeting of EMWIS Coordination Committee from June 25 to 27 in Madrid: this meeting allowed to assess actions carried out by EMWIS and its NFPs at the end of the contract with the DG EuropeAid and to analyse progress made in the

¹ Thematic Programme for Environment and sustainable management of Natural Resources, including energy (ENRTP)



implementation of the National Water Information Systems. On going activities within the preparation of the harmonisation with WISE were also discussed.

- Meeting of the Steering Committee on July 21 in Athens for the transfer of the presidency of EMWIS Steering Committee from France to Italy.
- Annual General Assembly of EMWIS-TU EEIG on 22 September 2008 for the approval of the 2007 accounts. Italy adjusted its financial contribution for year 2007 on this occasion.

1.2. Direct support to the countries

- The last local actions for the NFPs, financed within the EuropeAid contract, were finalised.
- An ad hoc training course on the implementation and use of EMWIS Web portal was held in Sophia Antipolis on June 3d for the new team of the Jordanian NFP.
- Audit assignments, in September 2008, on the Water Information Systems in Tunisia in partnership with the African Water Facility to prepare the financing of the national system and some components.

1.3. On-line services

The international EMWIS website is continuously updated (trilingual electronic Flash disseminated to more than 12,000 subscribers, topical directory, Web pages). A new section on the Union for the Mediterranean was created: it gathers the latest news and the contributions of various groups on the water topic.

Two new languages, Greek and Turkish, were added to the water sector focused multilingual thesaurus which was already available in English, Arabic, Spanish, French and Italian. The data base of projects in the water sector in the Mediterranean area is regularly updated.

The technology used (open source solution initially developed for the European Environment Agency) allows, in particular, sharing contents with EMWIS partners such as BALWOIS (initiative of a scientific and technical water information system for the Balkans) which automatically publishes the latest news provided by EMWIS on the Balkan countries.

Within the dissemination of information related to MEDA-Water projects, the website of the EMWater project was transferred on a server of EMWIS Technical Unit.

EMWIS also implemented and developed the website of the ministerial conference on water of the Union for the Mediterranean (<http://www.medaquaministerial2008.net/>).

1.4. Promotion of the system

Ten national information and promotion seminars were held by the NFPs between December 2003 and November 2007. In 2008, EMWIS was represented in the following meetings:

- Final conference of the MEDA-Water programme, 28-30 April 2008 in Marrakech (session on information systems),
- BALWOIS conference in Orhid (Macedonia) in May 2008 (presentation of EMWIS and of the Mediterranean water observation mechanism),
- Steering Committee of the GeoAquifer project between Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, 5 and 6 June 2008 in Tunis,
- Needs for research related to Integrated Water Resources Management in the Mediterranean countries, Valencia (Spain) June 10 and 11,



- Definition of indicators on drought and water scarcity for Europe, European Environment Agency, June 10 and 11 in Copenhagen,
- Mediterranean Talks, June 12-13, Barcelona,
- Preparation of a North-African system for water follow-up/evaluation (African Water Facility and CEDARE) June 10 and 11 in Cairo,
- Meeting of the monitoring and research sub-group of the Horizon 2020 initiative, October 9-10 in Athens.

1.5. Promotion products:

Various promotion products were prepared in 2008:

- o Country profiles introducing the NFPs and the institutional structure of the countries,
- o A cybercard-formatted CD-Rom including in particular: an animated presentation of EMWIS in English, Arabic and French, all the regional studies undertaken by EMWIS, a presentation of the on-line services,
- o A new publication of EMWIS e-news Flash in Arabic, English and French.

1.6. Implementation of topical activities (analyses, summaries and events)

Based on the priority topics defined in 2006 by EMWIS Steering Committee, thanks to additional financing from the DG Environment of the European Commission, two groups of experts, common with the Water Framework Directive / EUWI Joint Process, could progress (see web pages and on-line report) and continue their work:

- [Drought and water scarcity](#): the report of this group was finalised in June 2008;
- [Monitoring network](#): the mandate and action plan were validated by the Euromed Water Directors during the Bled conference in December 2007. A survey of the situation in the Mediterranean Partner Countries is being prepared.

1.7. Liaison with the international initiatives

A new agreement was signed with the World Water Council (especially regarding the Alliance for a global water observation mechanism) and EMWIS Technical Unit became a member of GWP-Med in order to strengthen regional coordination.

For information purpose, agreements have been previously signed with the International Network of Basin Organisations and its Mediterranean component (MENBO), IME, coordinator of the monitoring project of MEDA programme on the environment (SMAP-RMSU) and Greece for the Mediterranean Component of EUWI (EU Water Initiative). An action plan was defined with the European Environment Agency; its implementation is supported by contracts with the DG Environment of the European Commission.

1.8. Study on a regional water observation mechanism

This study was carried out in 2006-2007, following the request of the Euromed water directors (Rome, November 2005) to study “the objectives and feasibility conditions with volunteer countries, within EMWIS, of a Mediterranean water observation mechanism for monitoring the indicators on achievement of the millennium objectives related to water and sanitation in the Mediterranean area, as well as the implementation of the “water” component



of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, based on information from the national water information systems when they exist”.

Following this decision and after agreement from the European Commission, the 1st phase of this study was launched in June 2006 and the first outcomes submitted at the Euromed Water Directors' conference. Following the decisions made during this Conference, the 2nd phase of the feasibility study of a regional water observation mechanism was launched in 2007.

The outcomes were favourably received by the Euromed water directors (Athens in November 2006 and Bled in December 2007). The [final report](#) was published in June 2008. The main conclusions of this study (reinforcement of the national information systems and coordination / harmonisation of the regional initiatives) appear in the declaration of the Dead Sea ministerial conference on water (December 2008) and in the concept note on a Mediterranean Water Knowledge Hub.

1.9. *Towards a Mediterranean Water Information mechanism compatible with the Water Information System for Europe*

The objective of this project is to prepare a Mediterranean Water Information mechanism which will be compatible with the European information system -WISE- and which will support the Med joint process between the EU Water Initiative and the Water Framework Directive. In the long term, this mechanism will facilitate access to quality water data in the Mediterranean Partner Countries (MPCs). The partner countries which are characterised by developing or transition economies will benefit from a better access to the information necessary for good governance of the water sector. This will also facilitate the development of policies compatible with the principles of sustainable development fostered by the EU.

As the contract with the DG EuropAid was completed in June 2008, work on this contract only began in the 2nd half year with, in particular:

- An on-line catalogue of metadata of the water information sources in the Med partner countries. Work for comparing the available tools began. A feedback workshop will take place in May 2009.
- Preparation of a survey on the status of the water monitoring networks and programmes in the Mediterranean Partner Countries. A feedback workshop will take place at the end of September 2009.
- Preparation of a scenario for the implementation of a “Mediterranean” entry point to WISE website.
- Cooperation with the European working group on indicators related to water scarcity and drought.

An extension up to the beginning of 2010 will be requested from the Commission to carry out all the planned actions (regional synthesis on stakes related to water scarcity and drought, technical guidance documents to build water information systems interoperable with WISE, organisation of a meeting of the drought / water scarcity group, 6 national workshops).

Finally, a request for financing on the ENRTP 2008 budget was sent to the DG Environment of the European Commission in November 2008, in accordance with the project sheet drawn up at the end of 2007. This project amounting to € 187,500 for a 18-month duration, entitled “towards a European water information mechanism” is the continuation of the WISE interfacing project and aims at contributing to the development of a Mediterranean water



information system compatible with WISE by improving data gathering and formatting, thanks to the support of the topical working groups of the European Water Initiative / European Water Framework Directive Joint Process.

2. Financial statement 2008

The total amount of expenditure of the EMWIS Technical Unit for 2008 is: **516 963 EUR**

Budget lines	Expenditures in Euro for 2008
Staff	211 669,31
Experts	112 668,56
Travel and perdiem	46 595,56
IT supply and services	8 621,78
Meetings logistic	4 969,95
Promotion & translations	21 831,86
NFP support	62 587,19
Office & administrative costs	48 019,04
	516 963,25

The expenditures for 2008 are mainly balanced by financial contributions from the 3 countries of the Technical Unit (France, Italy and Spain) and European Commission grants. The breakdown is provided below:

