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European Regional Process for the fifth World Water Forum

Planning document, updated 19/9/2008

Contents:

- 1) Introduction
- 2) Your input
- 3) Regional Process, set up and objectives; outputs; focus points
- 4) Regional Workshops
- 5) European Water Village
- 6) Political Process
- 7) European Policy Summit
- 8) Future process, timelines and deadlines
- 9) Contact details

1. Introduction

In March 2009 the fifth World Water Forum will take place in Istanbul. Being the world's largest water-related event, the Fora are organised every three years as a joint venture between the World Water Council and the government of the host country. The Forum is an open, all-inclusive, multi-stakeholder process, which is the culmination of over two years of preparatory activities. It aims to raise the importance, awareness and understanding of water issues and propose concrete solutions to address global water challenges.

To prepare for this Forum a thematic and a regional process has been set up and thematic and regional coordinators have been selected. The thematic coordinators will form 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, provide region-specific input into the Forum and enable an exchange between the regions.

The European Water Partnership has been appointed European Coordinator. This document contains an updated overview of the objectives of the European Regional Process (ERP), the actions taken so far and the activities planned for the future.



2. Your input

The European Regional Process aims to be as inclusive as possible, reaching out to stakeholders in the whole of (geographical) Europe, specifically focusing to include the input from Eastern and Southern European countries as well.

We would therefore like to urge you to contact us when you are interested in taking part in the European Regional Process. Throughout this document you will find the various themes, events and initiatives you could be part of and the details of the individuals and organisations to contact. These opportunities are highlighted in coloured boxes throughout the text. For general information on the European Regional Process, contact the EWP at h.riedstra@ewp.eu or 0032 2 735 0681.

3. Regional Process

a) set up and objectives

The aim of the regional process is to mobilise actors in the region and act as a catalyst for specific contributions from the region to the Forum. 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. Each region is coordinated by a specific organisation or group of organisations that brings together the various stakeholders from all sectors and corners of the region. The European Water Partnership has been appointed European Regional Coordinator.

In November 2007 and February 2008 Thematic and Regional coordinators meetings were held in Istanbul, Turkey. These meetings were mainly focused on the thematic process, to identify the 100 key questions the Forum should address. At the second meeting in February a short Regional session was organised which brought together a number of participants in the European Regional Process.

In the months leading up to these events the European Regional Process was communicated as broadly as possible and a large number of interested organisations as well as events to connect to were identified. These organisations met for the first time in Brussels on 27 February to identify key topics the European Regional Process should address. The topics are listed below, together with the details of the organisation coordinating the theme.



For each of the themes a group of interested parties and a thematic coordinator were identified to start a regional thematic consortium. These consortia should involve all stakeholders and have a wide geographical coverage. This planning document serves as a terms of reference for the regional thematic coordinators.

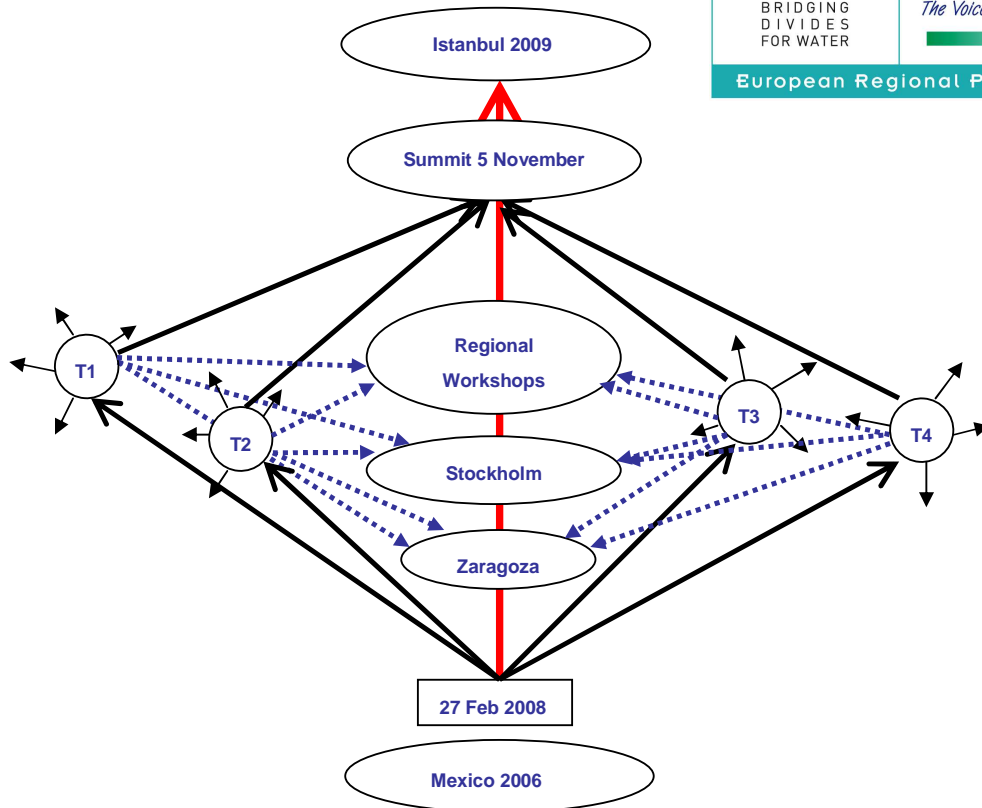
If you are interested in participating in and contributing to one of the themes of the European Regional Process, please contact the organisation coordinating the theme, which are listed below.

Future of Water in Europe	Aquawareness (EWP) – Agnes Biesiekierska. - a.biesiekierska@ewp.eu - 0032 2 735 0681
Climate Change and Adaptation	Contact: Lucilla Minelli (EWP) - l.minelli@ewp.eu - 0032 2 735 0681
Water for Energy, Energy for Water	EWP – Agnes Vaillier - a.vaillier@ewp.eu - 0032 2 735 0681
Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation	INBO – Jean Francois Donzier - jf.donzier@oieau.fr
Finance	European Investment Bank – Jose Frade - Frade@eib.org
Sanitation	Women in Europe for a Common Future – Sascha Gabizon - sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu
Water Scarcity and Droughts	Water Scarcity and Droughts Expert Network – Gabriele Bonaiti - g.bonaiti@rivieraberica.veneto.it
Water Science and Technologies	Contact: Harro Riedstra (EWP) - h.riedstra@ewp.eu - 0032 2 735 0681

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The set-up of the European Regional Process as defined during the first meeting in Brussels is visualised below:





The European thematic consortia are visualised in the graph by "T1"- "T4" and have the following aims:

- The development of the regional aspects of the theme
- Connecting to the (global) thematic process related to the theme
- Connecting to existing initiatives and conferences in Europe
- Writing the regional document
- Providing input to the sessions at the Forum: the regional session and the various thematic sessions.

Furthermore a European "Regional Coordination Committee" is set up, visualized by the red arrow and consisting of the thematical coordinators and representatives of the broader European organisations on water. The aims of this Committee are:

- Overall coordination of the European Regional Process, making sure wider Europe is represented.
- Organisation of the European Regional Session / Day at the Forum
- Coordination of the writing of the European Regional Document
- Connecting to the other Regional Processes
- Bringing Business and Politicians to the Forum
- Developing further initiatives (European Water Village)



Regional thematic consortia

The goal of the regional thematic process on the topics mentioned above is to result in a clear statement on the current status in Europe, the challenges we face and recommendations to address these challenges. These recommendations will take the form of a number of resolutions per theme. The fifth World Water Forum is very much focused on achieving a political result and these resolutions will be brought into the Political Process at the Forum. Furthermore the results of the European Regional Process will serve as a guidance for future policy development in Europe and will be brought in into global policy processes, specifically COP15.

To achieve a focused European Regional Process, a number of focuspoints are identified in advance together with the regional thematic coordinators, connecting to the global thematic process. On these focus points the resolutions will be set up and discussed during the thematic process, to be presented in Istanbul.

b) Outputs

There are three main outputs to be prepared for the Forum, which are listed below. However, we think the regional thematic processes should remain in existence after the Forum and not only focus on delivering results at the Forum itself. In consultation with the coordination committee the thematic coordinators are free to develop their activities to further their respective themes.

European Regional Document

The results of the regional thematic processes will be summarised in a European Regional Document similar to those published at the last Fora. This document will provide a clear overview of the actions taken per theme, the challenges Europe faces and the recommendations (resolutions) to address these challenges, making sure to follow up on the work done for the fourth Forum and initiatives already undertaken in Europe. It will also focus on best practices in Europe. Preliminary drafts of this text will be saved in the working space at the website of the European Regional Process (www.ewp.eu/erp09) to enable participants to comment on them. The European Regional Document serves as a guidance document for future policy development in Europe on the themes and as input in the political process during the Forum.

The European Regional Document will consist of a chapter for each of the themes of the European Regional Process, focusing on the best practices in Europe and leading to the policy recommendations for each of the themes. A detailed set up of the European Regional Document will be discussed at the next meeting of the Regional Coordination Committee.



If you would like to contribute to the writing of the European Regional Document, please contact the thematic coordinator of the theme you are interested in or the EWP at l.minelli@ewp.eu.

Secondly the regional thematic processes will provide input into the European Regional Session at the Forum. At this event the European Regional Document will be presented and the European thematic processes will have the chance to present and discuss their results and resolutions. Because each region has a separate session in the programme in Istanbul, this session will provide the best opportunity to connect to the Political process, attracting a large audience and thereby giving politicians a platform to discuss their ideas.

The setup of the Regional Sessions is not yet decided in detail. At the moment the Programme of the Forum envisages a 1,5 hour session. However, we are working to extend this time, to be able to achieve a highlevel and result-oriented European Session.

Within the minimum (1,5 hour) option, we will present the work having been done in the European Regional Process, the European Regional Document and the policy recommendations given. We will also focus on the future beyond the World Water Forum – how can the work being done in the European Regional Process be used after the Forum. A panel will be organised to discuss some of the issues raised in the European Regional Process.

The second, and much preferred option, is to organise a full European Day. This would enable us to organise more extensive and much higher level panels on the issues of the European Regional Process in general and one some of the themes specifically. Various Heads of State and ministers have already indicated their interest in participating in such a European Day.

If you would like to contribute to the European Regional Session, please contact the EWP at h.riedstra@ewp.eu

Input in the thematic sessions at the Forum

On the 22nd of March the second announcement of the Forum was published by the World Water Council. This document lists the six themes of the conference in more detail and calls for contributions to the sessions. On the 15th of September the final session proposals will be published. The deadline for informing the session coordinators of your interest to contribute is 30 September.



On the website of the World Water Forum (www.worldwaterforum5.org) you can propose your contribution to any of the 100 sessions being set up.

c) focuspoints

Southern and Eastern Europe

The European Regional Process will have a clear focus on connecting to Southern and Eastern Europe. The European Regional Coordination Committee will work to extend its networks in these regions and connect to organisations working in the region, making sure they are involved to the maximum extent. A regional workshop has been organised in Zaragoza to involve the Southern countries. In October, a workshop will be organised in cooperation with Global Water Partnership – CEE in Budapest, focusing on the Central and Eastern countries.

Thematic coordinators are urged to include organisations from these regions in their consortium and to connect to existing regional conferences, also making use of the extension of networks by the European Regional Coordination Committee. Furthermore the draft documents within the thematic consortia should be saved on the website of the European Regional Process to enable actors from these regions to contribute while avoiding travel expenses.

Representation European Regional Process in existing Conferences

The European Regional Process connects to as many existing initiatives and conferences in Europe as possible, to ensure a broad knowledge base within the themes. A list of identified conferences has been contacted to make sure their results can be used as input in the European Regional Process and a logo has been developed to show the connection between these conferences and the European Regional Process. A list of these conferences is available on the website of the European Regional Process.

Furthermore the European Regional Process should be as visible as possible through the representation of the European Thematic Consortia or European Regional Coordination Committee at these conferences.



Joint European Contribution

At the Forum in Istanbul a focus on the European participation will be achieved via a European pavilion: The European Water Village. This pavilion will bring together the European participants and will enable them to organise their own meetings and activities, thereby providing an incentive for business and politicians to come to the Forum. More information of the European Water Village can be found below.

4. Regional Workshops

The European Regional Process aims to include stakeholders from entire (geographical) Europe. Therefore the meetings of the European Regional Process are organised in the different European regions. Apart from the meeting organised in Brussels in February, a workshop was organised in Zaragoza in July, which enabled us to make sure the Southern European input is incorporated in the European Regional Process. A report of this meeting as well as the presentations given is available on the website of the European Regional Process at www.ewp.eu/erp09. Similar workshops are planned to be organised in Eastern Europe (Budapest, in cooperation with GWP-CEE) and in Northern Europe (Copenhagen, in cooperation with Danish Water Forum).

5. European Water Village

The World Water Forum will also host the World Water Expo; a venue for the participation of companies related to water that wish to present their services, products, activities and works. This component aims to allow the expression of water entrepreneurship, and effectively bridges the supply with the demand for innovation and new water technologies.

The fourth World Water Forum, in Mexico 2006, also hosted an EXPO. The European countries and companies were spread all over the venue and the question was raised why there was no united European contribution to the EXPO. The European Regional Process will address this issue by setting up a "European Water Village", a pavilion at the EXPO bringing together European countries, business, ngo's and government, including the European Union Institutions. The European Water Village will enable Europe to show its unity, delivering a strong combined message and presenting the shared best practices and experiences. It will provide extra opportunities for participants to present themselves and host meetings and workshops. By combining the efforts of the European actors, costs will be lower, which will also enable countries and businesses to participate that otherwise wouldn't be able to attend.



For more information on the European Water Village and how to participate in it, please refer to the website of the ERP at www.ewp.eu/erp09 or contact the EWP at h.riedstra@ewp.eu.

6. Political Process

Apart from the Thematical and Regional Processes, the Forum also hosts a Political Process. The Political Programme of the Forum aims to bring together politicians and elected officials from all over the world, not only responsible for water, environment, agriculture or energy policies, but also for finance or other domains, in order to create the understanding for the urgency of positive and pro-active policies on water issues. This process is, as much as possible, directly related to and fed by the thematic and regional frameworks and processes of the Forum. One of the outputs of the Political Process is a Ministerial Agenda, which will be prepared in three Prepcom meetings, the first of which took place on 11/12 September in Paris.

If you are interested in taking part in drafting this document, or would like to have the opportunity to give your comments, please contact the EWP at l.minelli@ewp.eu.

The European Regional Process is connecting to the political processes and institutions in Europe, whether it be the EU or the wider Europe. Existing frameworks like the Water Directors meetings and Aquawareness are used to bring the thematical work to the political level. The European Regional Process also makes sure politicians are directly involved in the thematical work, specifically by organising the European Policy Summit on Water on the 5th of November. Apart from bringing the policy recommendations resulting from the European Regional Thematic Process to the Political Process during the Forum and to the European Political Processes, the European Regional Process also works to include them in broader global processes, specifically COP15.

7. European Policy Summit, 5 November

On the 5th of November the EWP will organise the third European Policy Summit on Water, which will this year be specifically focused on the European Regional Process for the Fifth World Water Forum. This high-level policy event will take place in the Bibliotheque Solvay in Brussels, bringing together senior representatives from the



European political level, business, research and ngo's to discuss three of the themes of the European Regional Process: Climate Change and Adaptation, Finance and Water Scarcity and Droughts.

Invitations to this Summit will be sent out shortly. If you are interested in attending the event, you can already indicate so by sending an email to Lucilla Minelli at L.minelli@ewp.eu.

8. Future Process – timelines and deadlines

a) General

11/12 September:	First Prepcom Political Process, Paris
October (tbc):	Meeting European Regional Coordination Committee, Brussels
8/9 October:	Regional Workshop, Eastern Europe, Budapest
5 November:	European Policy Summit, Brussels
November (n/a)	Regional Workshop Northern Europe, Copenhagen
4/5 December	Second Prepcom Political Process, Geneva
22/23 January	Third Prepcom Political Process, Rome

b) European Regional Document

October (n/a):	Decision on set up during meeting of the European Regional Coordination Committee
15 November:	First drafts Chapters Regional Document – made available for Comments on the Virtual Space of the Forum.
8 January:	Second drafts Chapters Regional Document
- 1 February:	Editing
15 February:	Regional Document to printer
1 March:	Regional Document finalised, shipping to Istanbul

c) Thematic session

15 September:	Deadline Sessionproposals
30 September:	Deadline Sessioncontributions





d) European Regional Session

- 15 September: Decision by International Steering Committee of the World Water Forum on the length of the European Regional Session.
- October (tbc): Set up of Regional Session decided during next meeting of the European Regional Coordination Committee.
- 15 October: Send out first invitations
- 15 November: Send out second list of invitations
- 15 Januari: Programme finalised

e) European Water Village (see also attached document)

- 1 October: Inform European countries on plan, create interest
Analyse reactions, decision to go ahead
Agreement with Media Partner
- 1 November: Set up final plans in consultation between media partner and participating countries and organisations

9. Contactdetails.

For more information on the European Regional Process, please contact the EWP at the details below:

Harro Riedstra
European Water Partnership – Project Manager
h.riedstra@ewp.eu
0032 2 735 0681

Lucilla Minelli
European Water Partnership – Communications and Project Officer
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For specific themes within the European Regional Process, please refer to the contactdetails mentioned under 3a.

More information on the European Regional Process is available on the website of the European Regional Process at www.ewp.eu/erp09.