

European Regional Session – The way forward in the 21st century

Tuesday, 17th of March 2009

Location: Sütlüce Congress and Cultural Center – Amphitheatre 2

14.30 – 19.00

Draft programme

Europe has taken major efforts to address its water challenges, which have put it in a privileged situation regarding water management. Major progress has been made on infrastructure, legislative frameworks, technologies, research, etc. and the majority of Europeans are connected to safe drinking water and benefit from sanitation systems.

However, large challenges still remain: Lack of infrastructure and sanitation systems in the Eastern parts of Europe, ageing infrastructure, the financeability of the water sector, environmental challenges, etc. New developments like Climate Change and increased Water Scarcity and Droughts further exacerbate these challenges.

These issues are described in detail in the European Regional Document and provide the background of the European Regional Session. Based on this background the European Regional Session will discuss how to address some of these challenges, divided into a part on Europe's challenges and a part on Europe's role in the world.

14.30 – 15.00

Opening

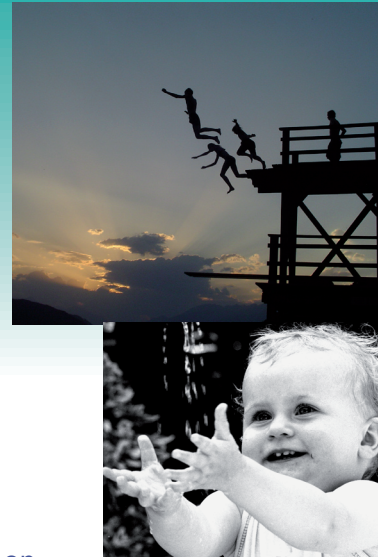
Tom Vereijken, *Chairman, European Water Partnership*

Keynote presentation

Loic Fauchon, *President, World Water Council*

Josep Puxeu, *State Secretary of Rural and Water Affairs, Spain (tbc)*

Jacqueline McGlade, *Executive Director, European Environmental Agency (tbc)*



Part I - Europe's achievements and challenges on water

Tuesday, 17th of March 2009

Location: Sütlüce Congress and Cultural Center – Amphitheatre 2

15.00 – 16.30

Panel discussion focusing on the achievements and remaining challenges of Europe on three themes of the European Regional Process: Climate Change and Adaptation, Water Scarcity and Droughts and Finance.

The panel consists of high-level representatives covering all sectors and regions in Europe:

Panel

- **Diane d'Arras** *Head Director, Research and Innovation Department, Suez Environnement and Chair, Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform*
- **Menno Holterman** *Chief Growth Officer, Norit Group*
- **Doris Köhn** *Senior Vice President for Europe, Caucasus, North Africa and the Middle East, KfW, Germany*
- **Jean-François Legrand** *French Senator and President of the County Council of Manche*
- **Jacqueline McGlade** *Executive Director, European Environmental Agency*
- **Renske Peters** *Director Water, Ministry for Transport, Public Works and Water Management, The Netherlands*
- **Kollatz Ahnen** *Vice President, European Investment Bank*
- **Anna Tsvietkova** *Water and Sanitation Programme Coordinator, MAMA-86, Ukraine*

Moderato: **Friedrich Barth** *Vice-chairman, European Water Partnership*

Themes:

- What new approaches and partnerships are needed to address the challenges posed by climate change?
- Facing water scarcity and droughts challenges – how can we meet the demands of the consumers, while still meeting the requirements of environmental legislation?
- How can we make the water sector more financeable, efficient and attractive for investments?

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee Break



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Part 2 - European Actions to Achieve Sustainable Sanitation for all

Reflecting on the International Year of Sanitation

Tuesday, 17th of March 2009

Location: Istanbul, Sütluce Congress Centre, Amphitheatre 2

17.00 – 18.00

The European Region has for many years been a frontrunner in improving sanitation and wastewater systems. Key factors were the introduction of water-borne centralized systems for waste water collection and treatment as a standard. However there are still Millions of people in the European Region without adequate access to sanitation and wastewater management.

- Which lessons has Europe learnt from the experiences of the last 150 years?
- Which actions does Europe take to reach the goal of providing sanitation for all?

17.00 – 17.05 Welcome by the chair

Introduction of the theme presenting the variety of Europe's sanitation situation and wastewater management achievements, opportunities and challenges

Chair: **Sascha Gabizon**, *WECF, Executive Director*

17.05 – 17.25 Keynote presentation

Sanitation in the European Union, **Helmut Blöch**, *Deputy Head of Unit Water and Marine, DG Environment, European Commission.*

17.25 – 17.55 Panel

Panellist:

- Swiss national campaign and successful actions in the International Year of Sanitation, **François Münger**, *Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation,*
- Achievements and Challenges in Europe, **Peter Cook**, *President of European Water Association,*
- Wastewater management in an urban setting – Paris, **Anne Le Strat**, *Deputy Director of Water Utility Eau de Paris (tbc)*
- Innovative onsite wastewater system in Meppel, **Marga Kool**, *Water Board Reest en Wieden, Netherlands*
- Implementation of modern dry sanitation in Moldova, **Galina Budu**, *NGO SEE Moldova,*
- Implementing the right to water and sanitation in the European Region, **Jürg Staudenmann**, *UNDP Euro-region (tbc)*

17.55 – 18.00 Closing

Expected outcomes

Proposals of initiatives on

- How to keep sanitation and wastewater management on the political agenda? Keeping the (IYS) momentum
- How to promote Sustainable and Affordable Sanitation for all, in large cities, small villages?



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Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation

Tuesday, 17th of March 2009

Location: Sütlüce Congress and Cultural Center – Amphitheatre 2

18.00 – 19.00

Over the last years, Europe has developed legislative and institutional frameworks on Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation. Basin Management has become a structuring approach for the European water policy. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) brought operational tools with common approach, methods and objectives. The UNECE Water Convention allowed also developing these concepts in the wider UNECE region. Sharing experiences between Europe and other regions in the world is of prime importance. How to develop capacity building on river basin management?

Welcome

- **Laszlo Kothay** *Hungarian State Secretary for Water, World President INBO*

Keynote

- **Jean-François Donzier** *Permanent Secretary, INBO*

Panel

Transboundary river basin management including non EU countries: the Danube Case -

- **Phillip Weller** *Executive Secretary, International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)*

Contribution of the UNECE Water Convention in Central Asia -

- **Francesca Bernardini** *United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)*

EU/China River Basin Management Programme -

- **Theo Henckens** *Team Leader, EU/China River Basin Management Programme*

Implementation of basin management on the Senegal River -

- **Salem Ould Merzoug** *Merzoug (Former Ministry for Water, High Commissary of the International Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS))*

Elaboration of a "Shared Vision" for the Niger river basin -

- **Jean-Yves Grosclaude** *Director of the French Agency for Development (AFD)*

EU contributions to solving water problems in the Middle East -

- **Walter Mazzitti** *Former President of the European Task-Force on water in the Middle East Peace Process, President of the Mediterranean Network of Basin Organizations (MENBO)*

Conclusions

- **Helmut Bloech** *Deputy Head of the Water unit of DG Environment, European Commission*



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Invitation