



Draft Mandate for an activity on Water Scarcity and Droughts in the Mediterranean

i. Introduction

As indicated in the Mediterranean draft report on Water scarcity and Droughts, water stress situations concern many countries in the Mediterranean. Groundwater overexploitation, development of non conventional resources illustrate the difficulties these countries are facing to manage water resources in a water scarce context.

In addition to structural imbalances between supply and demand in the region, the Mediterranean suffers from drought episodes whose consequences are sometimes dramatic.

Due to impacts of climate change the severity and intensity of the events are expected to increase.

These situations have not only economic, social, environmental but also political impacts. Central and local authorities have to consider the consequences of these disasters in their strategies and include prevention and mitigation measures in their policies. In addition, the fact that some basins are shared between several countries exacerbates the challenges.

However, if we know the situation in terms of water resources, few information is available as regards economic and social impacts.

At the EU level, the issue of Water Scarcity and Droughts is getting a higher profile thanks to a political initiative from Southern Member States. The European Commission is preparing an in-depth analysis of these issues.

On the Mediterranean side, the issue of Water scarcity was identified by partner countries as one of the major questions to be addressed. EMWIS, in his role of exchange of information and knowledge, has proposed to set up a group on this particular issue with the objective of exchanging experiences between water institutions and prepare pilot actions to demonstrate and validate the transfer of know-how.

It is proposed to take the opportunity of merging the two initiatives for deepening the issue in the Mediterranean and make a significant contribution as regards assessment of water scarcity and drought in the region, and promote water savings that would contribute to mitigate water scarcity and droughts in the region and in addition facilitate exchange of practices in this sector.

It is suggested to include this topic as a theme for the second phase of the MED-EUW JP.

ii. Objectives and key subjects

The objective of this activity on Water scarcity and droughts is to have an overview of the magnitude of the problem of water scarcity and droughts in the Mediterranean, particularly an assessment of their impacts, and exchange information on possible alternatives of water use that contribute to its saving and could be applied by different types of users.

This activity is targeted to the Member States, partner countries covered by the MED-EUWI, the Commission and interest groups.

Its aim is facilitate exchange of experiences between experts (EU and non-EU) on this issue, to produce an assessment of the impacts of water scarcity and drought in the region and to identify current practices in the Mediterranean to prevent and mitigate them.

Therefore, the objectives for this activity will be:

- Step 1: finalise the Mediterranean report on Water Scarcity and Droughts, initiated during the first phase of the Joint Process.
- Step 2: collect data and information on the economic, social and environmental impacts of water scarcity and droughts in the region.
- Step 3: information analysis and production of a report on the assessment of water scarcity and drought in the Mediterranean
- Step 4: identification and analysis of best practices and “success stories” for water saving measures and formulation of recommendations

iii. Organisation

The activity will be lead by Morocco, the European Commission France and MENBO. EMWIS will support the participation of Morocco, provide electronic collaboration facilities and ensure the diffusion of draft reports to the national water institutions in the Mediterranean countries.

Membership includes EU Member States, MEDA and Balkans countries representatives, experts from MEDA water regional programme and Research projects, and other experts.

Interfaces with the WS&D activity at the EU level will be organised thanks to EU members of the Med group and co leaders.

Active contribution in the drafting of the report is required from members of the group. Exchange of information will be facilitated thanks to a webpage administrated by EMWIS.

iv. Expected outcomes and deliverables

The expected deliverables are:

- Final version of the Mediterranean WS&D report by March 2007.

- Report 'Mediterranean in-depth analysis of WS&D and recommendations on water savings measures' by March 2008;
- Workshops summary report for further exchange of information

The reports will be submitted to the Euro-Mediterranean water Directors.

v. Contact person/s

Name	Organisation	E-mail
	MOROCCO	
	FRANCE	
María Sernequet Victoria Andrés	MENBO	maria.sernequet@chj.mma.es victoria.andres@chj.mma.es
Eric Mino	EMWIS	e.mino@semide.org
Sylvie Detoc	European Commission	Sylvie.detoc@ec.europa.eu

vi. Timeframe

Annual meeting	September 2007
Workshop	December 2007
Presentation to Euro-Med Water Directors	2008