



## Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) Meeting

15 August 2004, Stockholm

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### **Introduction**

The Multistakeholder Forum met on 15 August 2004 in Stockholm, for the first time since the entry into force of the organisational framework of the EU Water Initiative in July 2004.

The objectives of this meeting were:

- In a spirit of openness and transparency, to inform EUWI partners on the latest developments at horizontal and regional level;
- In a spirit of partnership, to engage in a dialogue with EUWI partners on the development and implementation of the Initiative at regional level;
- In a spirit of dialogue, to foster cross-fertilisation between the different components of the EUWI to initiate a dialogue between actors in the different regions to stimulate interaction between the components.

The Forum gathered together representatives from all segments of society – government, civil society and water operators – from Europe and from all the geographical components of the Initiative.

The present note summarises the main elements discussed during the regional panels and the main conclusions. The agenda of the meeting is presented in **Annex 1**; the list of participants is presented in **Annex 2**. The conclusions of the rapporteurs are presented in **Annex 3**.

#### **Outcome of the Meeting**

<b>General Information</b>
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After introduction of the meeting by the Chair, Bengt Johansson, SIDA, Sweden and the Co-Chair, Hugo von Meijenfeldt, Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, The Netherlands, the main developments of the EUWI in the past year were briefly outlined. As regards the general functioning of the EUWI, the following two milestones were highlighted:

- The new organisational structure for the EUWI, adopted in June 2004 and in force since July 2004, which reflects the multi-stakeholder process of the EUWI thanks to 3 levels: (1) Multistakeholder Forum – open to all with advisory function; (2) Steering Group – driver of EUWI, with coordination function; (3) Working Groups – in charge of implementation at regional level;
- The set-up of the EUWI Communication and Information System by Austria, to be officially launched following the Multistakeholder Forum.

Regarding the regional and cross-cutting components, the main achievements were presented by the EUWI Secretariat.

**Africa** (led by France and Denmark on the EU side):

Comparing with the commitments made in August 2003, the main outcomes are:

- A Joint declaration on the Implementation of the Africa-EU Strategic Partnership on Water affairs and Sanitation, agreed in December 2003, in Addis Ababa;
- Assessment studies completed for all 5 transboundary river basins in 4 sub-regions.
- Countries (2 per sub-region) chosen to initiate a Country level dialogue; dialogue completed in Zambia in June 2004; identification of EU lead countries ongoing.
- ACP-EU Water Facility adopted in May 2004 to support the objectives of the EUWI in the ACP region, which could be worth up to €500 million in a first phase.

**EECCA** (led by Denmark on the EU side and Russia):

- Statement on commitments for next steps adopted during the High level meeting in Moscow in February 2004;
- 270 building blocks compiled and specific website launched;
- €35 million committed from European Commission as part of the TACIS-Regional Programme to support the EUWI-EECCA in 2004-2006 New leadership by the Commission on the EU side for a period of one year starting post-Kiev+1.

**Mediterranean** (led by Greece on the EU side)

- Political commitments to Med-EUWI in May 2003 during the Kiev conference – 'Environment for Europe' and the Euro-Med meeting of foreign affairs ministers (Crete);
- Draft activity plan 2004-2006 prepared.

**Latin America** (led by Spain and Portugal on the EU side and Mexico)

- Political endorsement of EUWI-LA at EU-LAC Summit (28–29 May 2004).

**Monitoring / Reporting** (led by Italy in cooperation with European Commission):

- Working group set up and objective of the working group agreed.

**Finance** (led by UK):

- First phase completed with the adoption of the report identifying the financial challenges facing the water sector;
- Second phase launched.

**Research:**

- Update of the Commission's research website - database on water related projects to facilitate access to primary information and the people and institutions having competency in water related work (the address is mentioned at the bottom of the declaration).
- EUWI research session to be held in the framework of the World Water Week to endorse declaration on the next steps to be taken.

A specific presentation was made on the ACP-EU Water Facility by the European Commission, outlining key principles, activities to be supported and the timetable to be followed.

Three specific sub-sessions dedicated to (1) the linkages between EUWI and the European Water Framework Directive (2) Stakeholder involvement at local level and (3) Research to be held in the following days in the framework of the World Water Week in Stockholm were briefly introduced.

<b>African Panel</b>
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African and European partners underlined the importance of developing a closer relationship between the EU and AMCOW. Optimising interactions required making AMCOW a fully operative partner. In this respect, the issue of EU support to AMCOW was raised.

Regarding interaction between AMCOW and African stakeholders, the need for a specific protocol of engagement was discussed. as a means to better and more systematically involve stakeholders.

Discussions also touched upon the issue of public/private partnerships (and public/public partnerships); the urgency of successfully communicating on the EUWI to make a success of it in the region; and the need to move forward from commitments to actions. In this respect, the adoption of the ACP-EU WF was seen as very timely.

The withdrawal of Denmark from the Water Supply and Sanitation Working group was announced. Discussions on the identification of a new leader were ongoing and partners would be informed as soon as a decision has been made.

### **EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia) Panel**

Discussions focused on the need to tailor the work of the component to the gaps identified in the past year as the building blocks presented to date did not match the real priorities of the region (prioritisation process); and on the need to improve co-ordination and co-operation. It was recalled in this respect that the prime objective of the EUWI was to improve coordination and cooperation between donors. The EUWI was not conceived as a new financing mechanisms but rather a means to streamline existing assistance.

The need for a proper legal framework and a favourable institutional context in the EECCA countries was underlined by several panellists as a priority area. Capacity building was highlighted as a key supporting action. The need for increased public participation was also flagged. The need to enhance involvement of both EECCA and EU partners was stressed as crucial for the future development of the component.

Russia informed about a new website for water and GWP mentioned existing status report on IWRM for 8 countries.

### **Mediterranean Panel**

Emphasis was put on the stakeholder participation which is largely developed in the Mediterranean process. Nevertheless, involvement of Civil Society at grassroots' level had to be strengthened. Better coordination was needed as well as better use of existing funds. Regarding the political structure, NAMCOW was presented as a good example to replicate elsewhere.

Greece stressed the importance of developing a joint process between EUWI and the European Water Framework Directive, in order to share experiences between river basins from the same area.

### **Latin America Panel**

Discussions focused on future steps to be taken following the political endorsement of EUWI-LA at the EU-LAC Summit on 28–29 May 2004. Efforts needed to focus on:

- (1) setting up a multistakeholder process in the region through which to take further discussions on the analytical monographies in preparation to devise priority actions and a work plan for the component.
- (2) respond to funding needs of the region – the need for a donor survey to get a better picture of funding possibilities for the region was underlined; calls for further funding efforts from EU partners were made to sustain the component in the new phase.

## General Conclusions

The rapporteurs of the regional panels presented their comments (see separate; detailed summaries of rapporteurs in Annex 3).

Stephen Turner, Water Aid, noticed that, in Africa, a real dialogue is taking place but that it needs support to be stronger developed and in a more practical way, particularly at national level. Not enough information was provided on the on-going process at national level - the "country level dialogues".

Danielle Morley, Fresh Action Network, pointed out that the main priorities for the EECCA components are to improve the effectiveness of existing mechanisms and to develop higher political engagement.

For Chris Tydeman, WWF, the main issues for the Mediterranean are the lack of funding and political will.

Olivier Bommelaer, Agence de l'eau Seine-Normandie, identified the main challenges for the Latin America component as (i) reinforcement of regional ownership, (ii) involvement of regional Civil Society, (iii) stronger support from EU - EC and MS

In conclusion and drawing from the comments made by rapporteurs, the EUWI Secretariat highlighted the following points:

- Need for a greater focus on coordination;
- Cross fertilisation between regional components and with cross cutting components and other relevant processes (European Water Framework Directive);
- Better involvement of stakeholders in the regional components;
- Greater political ownership and leadership;
- Moving the emphasis from the political level to national action;
- Need to involve all ministerial sectors.

The Co-Chair and Chair concluded the meeting and emphasised the need for better coordination at all levels and for action on the ground.

Hugo von Meijenfeldt welcomed the outcomes of discussions and highlighted the importance of CSD13 as a key next step to take forward some of the conclusions reached during the MStF and move further at the international stage toward concrete action on the MDGs and WSSD targets for water supply and sanitation and IWRM. He indicated that the Dutch presidency of the EU was fully committed to doing its utmost during its term to pave the ground for a successful outcome at CSD13 next spring. He announced a conference on Water, Food and Ecosystems to be organised with FAO in January 2005.

In his own conclusions, Bengt Johansson underlined:

- Sanitation – there was a need to discuss how to implement the sanitation target
- Co-ordination of existing efforts needed to be continuously emphasised as it was the key to the EUWI's success
- The EUWI had reached the stage where practical implementation – and results on the ground – needed to emerge. This was key for the credibility of the Initiative.
- Resources allocated to the EUWI Secretariat in the Commission needed to be increased to strengthen engagement with EUWI partners.

The next milestones were announced:

EECCA Working group:	18 August 2004
IWRM Africa Working group:	18 August 2004
Finance Working group:	18 August 2004

Monitoring/Reporting Working group: 14 September 2004  
EUWI Steering Group: 19 October 2004  
EUWI MSF: 2005

**Enclosures to this summary:**

Annex 1: Meeting agenda  
Annex 2: List of participants  
Annex 3: Rapporteurs conclusions for Africa, EECCA, Med and LA components