



REFORMING & REINVIGORATING THE EU WATER INITIATIVE

*The Common Position of the
EUWI Steering Group*



EUWI Review

The Steering Group agreed that the key issues arising from the review that need to be addressed are:

- *EUWI Mission Statement*
- *EUWI Reform:*
 - *Regional Working Groups*
 - *Cross-cutting Groups*
 - *Steering Group*
 - *Multi-stakeholder Forum*
 - *Secretariat*
- *Financial and Human Resources*
- *Communication*
- *Performance and Accountability*



Mission

The mission of the EUWI should be:

To be a political initiative (and not a financial instrument) for the EU - Member States and the Commission - to work in partnership with third countries and all stakeholders, in coordination with other related regional initiatives and in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, to promote improved policies and strategies that contribute towards mobilising available resources, human and financial, in support of achieving the water-related MDGs and WSSD targets in partner countries within a framework of an integrated approach to management of water resources.



EUWI Reform

Clarifying, rationalising and streamlining the EUWI's organisational arrangements must be done to improve the focus on achieving results, reducing the institutional burden and better communication.

The following key areas for reform are proposed by the EUWI Steering Group



Regional Components

Objectives for individual regional components should be tailored to take account of the specific regional characteristics and challenges they face, reflecting the needs and priorities of partner countries.

Each regional component of the EUWI requires commitment from the Commission and Member States. Without that, any intervention in the sector will lack the EU identity.



Regional Components - response

The Regional Working Groups will be responsible for implementing the EUWI mission and objectives

- Participation entails a responsibility to undertake work actively within the Working Group*
- Each Working Group constituency (Member States and the Commission, Regional Partners, other actors) should determine, at a level of authority that can make real commitments, their strategic priorities and their level of involvement.*
- Each WG should develop objectives that are specific to its own circumstances and challenges and aligned with the overall objectives of the EUWI*



Cross Cutting Components

The work of the cross-cutting components (Research, Monitoring/Reporting and Finance) should be taken forward with the activities of the regional components or taken forward by other existing EU programmes.



Cross Cutting Components - response

- *The Research Component will continue to provide a platform for pooling together research activities interlinked both at EU level, through continued support by the DG Research Framework Programme, and at the Member States level, through the **ERA-NET** (“SPLASH”).*
- *A Monitoring Component should continue as an expert group providing knowledge and advice to the Working Groups on indicators and systems*
- *The Finance Working Group should seek to align and merge its activities with each of the Regional Working Groups and be available as an expert group to respond to demands for advice.*



Steering Group

The role of the SG needs to be redefined to focus on ensuring consistency of activities with the EUWI mission and objectives and binding the individual components of the EUWI together, providing its EU-wide identity.



Proposed EUWI Coordination Group

- *Replaces the Steering Group as forum for:*
 - *Representing the broad multi-stakeholder interests in the EUWI*
 - *Tracking the achievement of the objectives of the EUWI;*
 - *Information/experience exchange between Working Groups;*
 - *Feedback on Working Group work-plans and reports;*
 - *Oversight of communications strategy;*
 - *Reviewing and providing input to the annual report on the progress of the EUWI compiled by the Secretariat;*
 - *Ensuring that the EUWI annual report is made widely available*
- *Same membership as SG but ideally will have no more than 12 active members*



Multi-Stakeholder Forum

The MSF should be retained and should play a role in holding the EUWI accountable for delivery

Response:

- *The MSF will continue as an open forum to debate the EUWI .*
- *Participation will be open but members of the MSF will be expected to represent active water development interests, notably in the focus regions*
- *The role of the MSF will be cemented within the accountability framework of the EUWI by receiving and commenting on the EUWI annual report.*



The Secretariat

The Commission should continue to undertake Secretariat activities for the EUWI.

The mobilisation of additional resources from EU Member States to support those available from the Commission will be crucial for effective functioning of the Secretariat.



Secretariat Responsibilities

The EUWI Secretariat will be responsible for:

- *Compiling the EUWI Annual Report from those of the Regional Working Groups,*
- *Developing, coordinating and managing the communications strategy*
- *Planning the EU Coordination Group meetings and facilitating implementation of follow-up actions;*
- *Planning the annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum;*
- *Acting as first point of contact for the EUWI,*
- *Links with other relevant initiatives or programmes*
- *Supporting the Member States in raising the political profile of the EUWI.*



Communication Strategy

Of critical importance, a communication programme was never implemented in the early years of the EUWI. This probably contributed significantly to the asymmetry of expectations that developed between MS and their partners.

It is now of key importance to communicate the revised mission and objectives effectively.



Communication Strategy - response

A communications strategy will be developed and coordinated by the Secretariat with input from the Regional Working Groups and with the oversight of the Coordination Group to;

- Ensure clear information is available to all about the EUWI mission, objectives, organisation, working groups and achievements;*
- Promote cross-collaboration and synergies between working groups;*
- Use the CIS and other means for information exchange for internal and external use to reinforce the political objectives of the EUWI;*
- Help motivate external parties to get involved in the EUWI.*



Financial and Human Resources

The mobilisation of resources from the EU (Member States and the Commission) to support the regional components of the Initiative as well as additional resources necessary for the functioning of the Secretariat is crucial to the successful development and continuation of the Initiative.

Each regional component of the EUWI requires a critical mass of commitment from the Commission and Member States.



Financial & Human Resources - response

- *The Commission is planning to provide limited resources to support central level activities of the EUWI through a Thematic EU Budget Line*
- *Specific funding for each regional component may also be available from the different funding instruments of the Commission*
- *The mobilisation of additional resources from Member States to support those available from the Commission will be crucial for effective functioning of the EUWI*



EUWI Accountability

The EUWI must be made accountable to the EU and to Regional Partners.

NGOs and other EUWI members, accountable through their involvement in working groups, the Advisory Group and the MSF, should continue to hold the EUWI to account.



EUWI Accountability - response

- *Reporting will be made annually for each EUWI regional component to the Regional Partners and to the appropriate Commission/Member State Management Committee(s).*
- *An aggregated report on overall progress will then be prepared by the EUWI Secretariat for comment by the Coordination Group, and will be communicated by the Commission to relevant Council Working Groups.*
- *The annual reports from the regional components will be made public and posted on the website.*
- *The Annual Report of the EUWI will be presented to the MSF and will be posted on the website.*



Thank you

*Now time for Questions &
Discussion*