



European Commission

European Water Conference 2007

Brussels,
22/23 March 2007

Conference organised by the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission, in cooperation with the Joint Research Centre, Eurostat and the European Environment Agency.

Conference Information

There will be open registration without fee for a maximum of 350 participants .

Please consult the EUROPA webpages for further information. The direct link to the conference web page is:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/conference.html>

If you have further questions regarding the conference, please contact:

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Dear Reader,

I am very pleased to invite you to the European Water Conference 2007 which will be held in Brussels on 22-23 March 2007.



Stavros Dimas
Commissioner for Environment

With this Conference, the EU participates in the celebrations for the World Water Day of 2007, which is dedicated to "Coping with water scarcity". This is a very

timely, urgent and serious problem.

"Water is life". But the challenge we are faced with today is that water is becoming an increasingly scarce resource and that, if we do not act, access to water resources will become a real bottleneck for economic, social and environmental development also throughout the European Union. Its scarcity will dramatically affect – and possibly even endanger – our quality of life. And with the predicted effects of climate change on the availability of water resources, the problem is likely to be exacerbated in the years to come. What is already becoming abundantly clear is that if we are not ambitious with respect to the management of scarce water resources, we will not be able to cope.

That is why we urgently need to develop and fully implement forward-looking policies. The Commission Communication on water scarcity and droughts planned for later in 2007 is one key step in this context. The existing Water Framework Directive has been hailed as a milestone to this end. But we must not rest on the laurels as having it on paper is certainly not enough. I now want to see the Member States deliver on a rigorous and ambitious implementation of it.

A central theme for everybody in the 21st Century will be adaptation to climate change. No matter how many mitigation measures we take, we will inevitably have to adapt our behaviour and practices with respect to water. And it is in this adaptation that we will have to demonstrate our ability to cope. The European Commission is already working in this area to develop instruments that will allow the European Union to tackle this challenge. The developed legislation to reduce flood risks and protect the marine environment is going in this direction.



