



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.

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.



Stavros Dimas
Commissioner for Environment

"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.



European Water Conference 2007

The Conference sets out to gather people from all walks of life interested in European water policy to discuss the achievements, challenges and ambitious solutions for the European Union and its citizens.

Last, but not least, I will be taking advantage of this very important event for the launching of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) – an innovative and forward-looking project of the Commission and of the European Environment Agency. The Water Information System for Europe will bring management and provision of water-related information into the 21st Century. It will establish a single portal on water-related information for European citizens, public authorities and other users of information on water in Europe. It will be the future reference point for all information on Europe's water environment and the efforts to preserve it and a key tool for the development and implementation of ambitious water policies.

I hope to see you at the Conference in Brussels!

Stavros Dimas
Commissioner for Environment



¹ The Water Information System for Europe is a joint initiative of DG Environment, Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre

Themes

The European Water Conference 2007 will have its opening day during World Water Day 2007. It is an international gathering which will focus on:

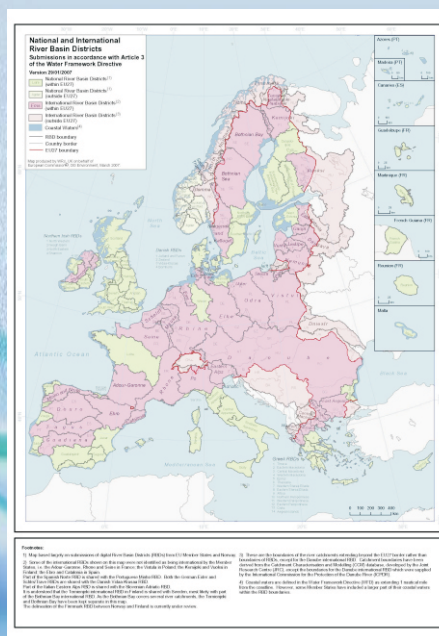
Themes

- Implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)
- Launching of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE)
- Ongoing debates on other water policy areas, including the Marine Thematic Strategy, the Flood Action Programme, directives on groundwater and surface water priority substances.
- Future challenges including water scarcity, droughts and climate change.

Target Groups

Target Groups

- EU policy makers
- Water administrators from Member States and other countries with whom the EU shares river basins and seas.



Tentative Conference Programme

- Interested public including business, non-government and civil society organisations.
- International organisations working on water policy.
- Water experts and researchers interested in water policy.

Tentative Conference Programme

Day1

- High level opening session with Commissioner Dimas and representatives of the EU Presidency, European Parliament and other EU bodies.
- Panel discussion with stakeholders, interest groups and NGOs.

Day2

- Implementation of the Water Framework Directive (including Member States performance and key issues)
- Water policies in discussion (including marine and floods).
- Emerging water policy issues (including water scarcity and climate change).

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