



EMWIS Flash - February 2005

Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in
the Water Sector

EMWIS is a program of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

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HEADLINE

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1. EU Member States are leading the EU Water Initiative ([EUWI](#)) but also implementing the [WFD](#) (Water Framework Directive). The Joint Process is a tool for combining EU and non-EU expertise and means under the umbrella of the EUWI to facilitate both the implementation of sound water policies in non-EU countries, and the implementation of the WFD in the EU. The regional approach within the synergy WFD/EUWI has started with the [Mediterranean Area](#) presented at the [Brindisi](#) workshop in September 2004, where 3 working groups involving EU and non-EU experts were launched: water scarcity, integrated ground water, linking rural development and water management. At the **last meeting of the [Med EUWI Working Group held in Brussels on January 17th](#)**, the progress of [Joint Process and its working progress](#) was presented and formal links with the Med component of the EUWI were discussed. EMWIS is contributing to this process with a regional survey to identify the level of interest of Mediterranean Partner countries for the concepts of the WFD (results expected mid-2005).

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IN BRIEF

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2. The Information Technologies managers of the [EMWIS National Focal Points](#) (NFP) will meet in Sophia-Antipolis (France) from **14 to 18 March 2005** for a training session dedicated to emerging techniques for distributed web applications (XML, web services, Enterprise Applications Integration, content syndication, open source). This seminar will help the NFP in improving their web site and in developing a longer term strategy for a better integration with the EMWIS framework and for the management of relations with existing national water information systems. [Click here](#) for further information.

3. **EU enlargement** has opened doors of opportunity for trade in the new member and accession states where **investment in water utilities** requires country-specific expertise. Most experts in the sector, represented by early market entrants such as the UK, France, Austria and Germany, are likely to take advantage of their expertise because a number of water utilities in the new EU member states and wider Europe are expected to change hands. [Click here](#) for further information.

4. **Minute amounts of dangerous sex-changing organic pollutants**, including estrone, can now be detected in river water thanks to a new optical sensing instrument created by an international team. The success of the new project being funded by the EU's environment programme has created worldwide interest. [Click here](#) for further information.

5. Senior Officials of the Euro-Mediterranean partners' Statistical Offices and other relevant administrations, including the EC, met on 17 and 18 January in Brussels for a high-level Directors' Committee of the MEDA funded Regional Statistical Co-operation Programme (**MEDSTAT**). The aim was to renew their commitment to implementing the MEDSTAT Programme, managed by the EC's EuropeAid Co-operation Office with the technical expertise of the EU Statistical Office (**Eurostat**). Co-ordination between MEDSTAT and bilateral and multilateral statistical co-operation programmes has been looked at in the light of experience on both sides of the Mediterranean. [Click here](#) for more information.

6. The EC is taking legal action against Belgium in four cases involving violations of **EU environmental laws**, and against Luxembourg in one case. The action aims to ensure that both Member States put an end to their infringements as soon as possible and thereby improve their level of environmental protection. The Commission has decided to take **Belgium and Luxembourg** to the European Court of Justice for not fully transposing the Water Framework Directive, the cornerstone of EU water protection policy, into their national law. The deadline for doing so expired almost one year ago. The Commission is also taking legal action against Belgium over greenhouse gas emissions trading, petrol and diesel quality and ozone-depleting substances. [Click here](#) for further information.

7. The EC will refer **Greece** to the European Court of Justice in three cases involving **EU environmental law**. The Commission's actions are aimed at strengthening Greek law in order to provide better protection against air pollution and to clean up Lake Koronia, an internationally important wetland that has been harmed by over-abstraction of water and serious industrial and agricultural pollution. The final case aims at getting Greece to transpose the Emissions Trading Directive, one of the most important EU initiatives to combat global climate change. [Click here](#) for further information.

8. The EC has decided to pursue infringement proceedings against **Ireland** in eight cases involving breaches of **EU environment law**. The Commission's action in these cases is aimed at reducing agricultural and sewage-related water pollution, protecting citizens from noxious sewage odours, ensuring safe waste disposal, ensuring that significant projects are properly environmentally assessed, restoring an important nature site and getting Ireland to participate more fully in wider efforts to curb air pollution and protect the Earth's ozone layer. The Commission has a duty to ensure that each Member State lives up to its commitments to safeguard the environment and human health. [Click here](#) for further information.

9. The EC is taking further legal action against **Italy** in 15 cases concerning breaches of **the EU's environmental laws**. The legislation in question relates to waste-water treatment, industrial emissions, prevention of industrial accidents, environmental impact assessment, conservation of important natural habitats, protection of water resources, control of air pollution, emissions trading and zoos. In ten of the cases Italy is being referred to the European Court of Justice. In another case Italy has received a final warning to comply with a previous Court judgment or face the prospect of substantial penalties. [Click here](#) for further information.

10. The EC has decided to pursue legal action against **Finland, Sweden and Denmark** for violations of **EU environmental laws** on nature protection and industrial pollution. [Click here](#) for more information. On the other hand, it is also taking **the Netherlands** to the European Court of Justice over three cases where the Netherlands has not implemented EU environmental laws on time or has done so inadequately. The laws cover industrial emissions, packaging waste and water protection. [Click here](#) for further information.

11. The EC is pursuing legal action against **Portugal** for breaches of **EU laws on protection of the environment** in six separate cases. The EU laws in question concern nature conservation, water and impact assessment. Among other things, these laws are aimed at ensuring that important wildlife sites are safeguarded and water resources protected. [Click here](#) for further information. On the other hand, The EC has decided to pursue infringement proceedings against **Spain** in five cases involving EU environment law. The legislation in question relates to waste-water treatment, disposal of waste and

nature conservation. The Commission's actions are aimed at cleaning up a polluted bathing water at Sueca in Valencia, cleaning up uncontrolled landfills in Almería, and protecting important nature sites in Catalonia, Castilla y Leon, Alicante and Balearic Islands. [Click here](#) for further information.

12. The EC will take **Austria and Germany** to the European Court of Justice for breaches of **environmental legislation** in four cases. They have both failed to comply fully with an EU law on recycling of old cars. Germany has not fully transposed into its national legislation an important EU law on water protection and Austria has not correctly transposed the 'Seveso' directive on the prevention of major industrial accident hazards. [Click here](#) for further information.

13. The EC has decided to pursue legal action against **France** in six separate cases where France has failed to comply with judgments of the European Court of Justice. These cases concern **EU laws** on nature conservation, public access to environmental information, water protection, waste and genetically modified micro-organisms. France could face fines if it fails to bring its laws and practices into line. [Click here](#) for further information.

14. **Mr. Serge Lepeltier**, French minister of ecology and sustainable development had stated recently that the project of the law on water would be submitted to the Parliament before the summer. The text, sent on January 7th to the Council of State, should be presented in the Council of Ministers in March. It aims particularly at making it possible that **France reaches a good ecological state of water in 2015**, under the terms of the European legislation. The version close to that which will be submitted to the Parliament is from now on [available](#). [Click here](#) for further information. (in French)

15. **The 2nd SMAP RMS National Seminar** on Environmental Integration and [SMAP III](#) took place in Rabat (Morocco) on 27-28 January 2005. It was organised jointly by the SMAP RMSU with the Ministère de l'Aménagement du Territoire, de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (MATEE), DG EuropeAid and DG environment. [Click here](#) for more information on the workshop.

16. The [OPEC \(Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries\) Fund for International Development](#) signed on 12 January 2005 a **US\$20** million loan agreement with the Kingdom of **Morocco** to help finance a project to alleviate **water shortages** in the city of **Marrakech**. Construction of the Wirgane Dam is expected to boost potable water supplies by some 17 million m³ annually. The Kingdom of Morocco has previously received 12 loans from the OPEC Fund, supporting projects in the agriculture, education, energy, health, national development banks and water supply and sewerage sectors. Morocco has also benefited from technical assistance grants in the areas of agriculture and energy. [Click here](#) for further information.

17. **ISIIMM project** (Institutional and social innovations in irrigation Mediterranean management), one of the [MEDA WATER](#) projects; has published a new section on its website with several interesting documents in the Water sector. [Click here](#) for further information. On the other hand, a seminar is scheduled in Zahle, Beqaa plain (Lebanon): **"Water governance and IWRM, groundwater sustainable management"** during the period 30 March- 3 April 2005. The objective of the seminar is to inform about what is IWRM, training about the key concepts of **IWRM**, exchange of experience from the countries representatives and ISIIMM partners. [Click here](#) for further information.

18. The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) have released the results of a **joint project on water-related challenges for financial institutions**. In the report, "Challenges of Water Scarcity: A Business Case for Financial Institutions", UNEP FI and SIWI highlighted the issues that arise from dealing with water scarcity and identified opportunities for the financial sector for contributing to sustainable development through active engagement in mitigating water related risks. The report is available for download from [SIWI website](#) or [UNEPFI website](#).

19. **The Arab Water Council constituent committee** was convened for the first time in [Dubai](#) on January 3-5 under the chairmanship Minister of Water Resources and head of the Council **Dr. Mahmoud Abu Zeid**. The three- day meeting addressed mechanisms and ways of activating the Council's role in contributing to economic, social and sustainable development of water resources in the Arab region. In pre-departure statements Sunday Abu Zeid said the council aims at discovering optimal means regarding the development and management of water resources in Arab countries based on Scientific approach. The Council also called for rationalizing water consumption and provided advice for both the operation and maintenance of water systems. [Click here](#) for more information, or view [the Arabic site](#).

20. **Nile Basin member states Water Resources ministers** met on February 5 in Uganda to lay final touches on a new agreement on benefiting from Nile River water. One of the main characteristics of the new approach is boosting cooperation among member states. [Click here](#) for further information.

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NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES

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21. **The EC Delegation in Cairo (Egypt)** has had a **new Head** since early January in the person of **Klaus Ebermann**, who was previously Head of Delegation in Beijing, China. He replaced Ian Boag who became Head of the Delegation in Kiev, Ukraine.

22. **A new Head of Delegation** has also taken up his post on 1 January at the EC Delegation of **Tel Aviv (Israel)**. His name is **Ramiro Cibrian Uzal** and he was Head of Delegation in Prague, Czech Republic before the latest EU Enlargement, then Chief of Staff of European Commissioner Vladimir Spidla. He replaced Giancarlo Chevallard in Israel.

23. **The New Ambassador of Morocco to the EU, Menouar Alem**, presented on 18 January his letter of accreditation to EC President José Manuel Barroso. Mr. Alem was formerly Director for European Affairs in the Moroccan Foreign Ministry.

24. Global Water Partnership for Central & Eastern Europe (**GWP CEE**) is looking for **5 short term experts** to prepare water related training packages for decision makers in GWP CACENA region (Caucasus and Central Asia). The training packages will be tested at two training workshops in CACENA in 2005 and afterwards disseminated throughout GWP networks especially in CEE, CACENA and MED regions (Mediterranean). Potential candidates are kindly requested to send electronic versions of their CV and two reference

contacts (preferably one from GWP) via e-mail not later than **28 February 2005**. [Click here](#) for further information.

25. **Nominations for WSSCC** (Water Supply & Sanitation Collaborative Council) **chairperson**, are open. The person to fill this position is supposed to be the figurehead of WSSCC, responsible for the performance of the Steering Committee, responsible for planning succession, to manage the boundary between governance and management, and to be the line manager for the Executive Director. Nominations should be sent to WSSCC Secretariat, [Tirza Kouwenberg](#) no later than **2nd April 2005**. [Click here](#) for further information.

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PUBLICATIONS
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26. **New web site for European Environmental Research:** The EU supports research activities aimed at recommending practical ideas and technologies to help solve the environmental problems facing Europe and the world. This website explains how the Commission's Environment research programme is tackling this huge research challenge through the right policies, projects and people. You can visit the site by clicking [here](#).

27. The new report by the UN Millennium Project Task Force on Water and Sanitation presents an operational plan for halving, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. In the report, titled **Health, Dignity, and Development: What Will It Take**, and the abridged version published with support of the Swedish Water House, the Task Force underscores the need to focus on the global sanitation crisis, which contributes to the death of 3.900 children each day, to increase access to domestic water supply, and to invest in integrated development and management of water resources. [Click here](#) to download the full report by the Task Force on Water and Sanitation, and [click here](#) to download the abridged report produced together with the Swedish Water House.

28. "**Diverting the Flow; A Resource Guide to Gender, Rights and Water Privatization**" is the title of a publication considered a resource guide for policymakers, and human rights, environmental, and economic and gender justice advocates working on global policy, to examine the impact that the privatization of goods and services like water has on the livelihoods of women, particularly poor women. [Click here](#) for more information.

29. "**Water for Health**" is the title of the 3rd edition of WHO's (World Health Organization) Guidelines for Drinking-Water Quality. It reviews the history of WHO's work and details the evolution that occurred in this field. [Click here](#) to download the full document.

30. "**World water resources at the beginning of the 21st century**", is one of the last publications of Prof. Igor A. Shiklomanov, Scientific Leader and Editor of the State Hydrological Institute (SHI). [Click here](#) to view a summary of this book and basic research results with appropriate figures, graphs and tables.

31. **ADVISOR project:** Integrated Evaluation for Sustainable River Governance guidance document is now online. The final version of the ADVISOR's project guidance document on Integrated Deliberative Decision Processes for Water Resources Planning and Evaluation is now available for download from the project's website. ADVISOR aims at the

delivery of a set of guidelines to river basin authorities and related EU agencies for the execution of integrated evaluation of projects. It will build on the analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of past river basin project evaluation processes in the EU. [Click here](#) to download the documents.

32. IWA Publishing has published the 3rd edition of **the Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality**. It provides a state-of-the art perspective on issues of water quality and health and on effective approaches to water safety management. This fully-revised third edition includes expanded coverage on systematic drinking-water safety assessment and management. [Click here](#) for more information.

33. The Arab Water Council (**AWC**) in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (**UNDP**) and the Centre for Environment & Development for the Arab Region & Europe (**CEDARE**) have published the status of Integrated Water Resources Management (**IWRM**) **Plans in the Arab Region**. This report compiles the available documentation in the Arab countries that constitutes national plans water policies, or strategies towards the development of IWRM plans. [Click here](#) to download this report.

34. **A new web-based of Hydrology and Earth System Sciences** (HESS), and particularly HESSD has made a flying start. There are many papers in the pipeline and already there are quite a number of papers in discussion in HESSD. It is strongly recommend taking a look at [the website](#). The hydrological community is called to contribute in the discussion or the revision of the Journal. Also have a look at [the first volume of HESSD](#).

35. The website of the review "**Sécheresse**" proposes **a directory of the organizations** having published on line between 1995 and 2004 articles on the topic: **Development of the arid and semi-arid regions**. This directory was established from more than 8000 articles (that is to say more than 20000 authors or joint authors), published in several hundreds of reviews published and available on line. [Click here](#) to view it. (in French)

36. Written by **public water utility managers**, trade unionists and civil society activists from more than 20 countries, the new book "**Reclaiming Public Water**" Challenges the neoliberal prejudices of governments & international financial institutions. The book (286 pages) presents a wide range of concrete examples from around the world of how urban public water delivery can be improved through democratic utility reforms, such as the introduction of comprehensive forms of citizens participation. It also draws on the rich experiences of anti- privatisation coalitions and their visions on making public water work. The book is available online: [Click here](#).

37. **WISIONS** has presented a second issue of PREP (Promotion of Resource Efficiency Projects) brochures on the topic "**Water and Energy - Precious Resources**". It can be downloaded [here](#).

38. The U.S. Geological Survey has added [an Arabic version](#) of the Web site about "**The Water Cycle**". It features a wonderful diagram of the water cycle and an in-depth discussion of each of the 15 topics on the diagram. And, the diagram is available in more than 37 languages. [Click here](#) to visit this web site. The site is part of the existing [Water Science for Schools Web site](#). You can contact [Mr. Howard Perlman](#) for more details.

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CALL FOR TENDERS and PROPOSALS

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39. Call for proposals for indirect RTD actions under the specific programme for research, technological development and demonstration: "[Integrating and strengthening the European Research Area](#)" has been launched. The deadline is **15 March 2005**. Budget: **€205 M**. Funding for the participation of researchers teams and institutions from third countries (i.e. states that are neither Member States nor states associated to the Framework Programme) can be made available in most cases in the same way as for EU partners (see [here](#) for conditions). Further information can be found [here](#).

40. Call to IHE Alumni: "**Stockholm Industry Water Award**" was established by the Stockholm Water Foundation in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development to stimulate business sector contributions to sustainable development. The Stockholm Industry Water Award will be presented on August 24, 2005, during the World Water Week in Stockholm. The deadline for nomination is **February 28, 2005**. [Click here](#) for More Information.

41. Call for proposals for **Marie Curie Host Fellowships** for the Transfer of Knowledge has been launched. Next deadline: **18 May 2005**. [Click here](#) for more details.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

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42. **The First EMPOWERS Regional Symposium**: "Sharing Experiences on Involving Users in Integrated Water Resources Management at the Local and Intermediate Levels" has announced a call for papers. This symposium will be held in Cairo (**Egypt**) between 13 and 16 November 2005. The abstracts are to be e-mailed by **April 15th 2005**, to [the abstract coordinator](#): Mrs. Mona Barghout. The deadline for submission of final drafts of papers is June 30th 2005. For more information, [click here](#).

43. **The International Conference on Urban River Rehabilitation and Riverfront Development**, that will be held in Dresden (**Germany**) between **21 & 23 September 2005**, has announced a call for paper. The conference will foster an exchange of urban river rehabilitation methods, techniques and experiences between scientists, practitioners and urban decision makers as well as between different professional groups. Abstracts for papers (500 words) are to be send before **14 March 2005** at [URBEM](#). For more information, [click here](#).

44. **The International Water History Association (IWHA)** invites panel proposals and individual paper abstracts for IWHA's fourth biennial conference, which will be held in Paris between 1 & 4 December 2005. The program, which will address diverse topics related to water and history, will bring together scholars and practitioners from a variety of disciplines and different parts of the world. Participants are invited to submit paper abstracts (maximum 250 words) no later than **March 1, 2005**. Only proposals and abstracts sent via this [link](#) will be considered. For more information, [click here](#).

45. **The 2nd WEKNOW Conference** will take place in Bratislava, **Slovak Republic** from **13 - 15 June 2005**. The Conference will present the state of European science on drinking water quality with emphasis on research outcomes that assist risk assessment and risk management strategies. The conference attendance is free of charge for the first 100 registered participants. Download [the 1st announcement](#). For more information, [click here](#).