



EMWIS Flash - October 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. At their last meeting (Athens, June 2005), the members of the EMWIS Steering Committee agreed on the organisation of a conference addressing **the water general directors of the 35 EuroMed countries and the European Commission**. This event will be held the **24 and 25 November 2005 in Rome** within the framework of the celebration of the 10th birthday of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership. It will aim to inform the Water Directeurs on EMWIS progress; and to define the strategy for the 10 next years, in particular integrating of the monitoring for the Mediterranean of trends towards the Millennium Goals relating to water and sanitation, as well as the implementation of the water section of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development validated. The involvement of the Mediterranean countries not signatory of the Barcelona declaration: (Libya and Balkan countries) will be analysed. Finally, the presidency and the composition of the Steering Committee will be renewed. For further information, please visit [EMWIS web site](#).

Up

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IN BRIEF
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2. The Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water sector –EMWIS- has 20 National Focal Points, 15 of them having launched a national water information service available on the web. An information seminar aiming to raise awareness of the benefits of exchanging know-how and information among the main stakeholders of the Lebanese water sector will be held on **10 November in Beirut** on the joint initiative of **EMWIS** and **the Lebanese Ministry of energy and water**. This will also be an opportunity to present the recent evolution of the water sector in Lebanon as well as the projects of the MEDA regional programme for local water management implemented in Lebanon as well as. For further information, please visit [EMWIS web site](#).

3. The EC has approved funding for **89 environmental innovation projects in 17 countries** under **the LIFE-Environment programme 2005**. These projects will demonstrate new methods and techniques for dealing with a wide diversity of environmental problems, thus contributing to improving Europe's environment. The projects represent a total investment of **€220 million**, of which the EU will provide one third. Almost one fifth of the EU funding (**€14 million**) will be allocated to projects dealing with the sustainable management of groundwater and surface water. See [EC website](#) for further information.

4. A new EU research project aimed at monitoring and predicting water availability and distribution in drainage basins has just begun its activities. One of the main goals of the **AWARE project (Available WATER REsource)** is to bridge the current gap between available data on the state of water resources and the information requested by different stakeholders involved in the management of local water resources. This three-year initiative (2005-2008) will involve research institutes, universities and private companies from five European countries - Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland. See [AWARE website](#) for additional information.

5. **Nelly Olin**, Minister for Ecology and the Sustainable Development and **Brigitte Girardin**, Minister delegated to the Co-operation, the Development and the Francophony, chaired on September 28, 2005 a round table on **the international action of France in the water and sanitation sector**. This round table, involving the national associations of local authorities, the French Agency for Development and the water agencies confirm the mobilization of all the actors to reinforce, within the framework of the law of February 9, 2005, the coherence of their international actions to improve access to water, its management and sanitation. The participants expressed their wish, in the respect of the autonomy of each one, to register their projects within a concerted and more effective framework, in particular in favour of the development of the local public services guaranteeing the equitable and sustainable access to water. They adopted a Joint

Declaration, which will inspire their step in sight particularly for **the World Water Forum of Mexico City in March 2006**. It will be the occasion to put forward French technical skill and experiment of decentralised co-operation in the field of water and sanitation. See [the website of the Ministry](#) for further information. (Only in French)

6. The locality of Fouka, in the wilaya of Tipaza (**Algeria**), will accommodate **a desalination unit of sea water** with a capacity of **100.000 m³/day**. The future station will use the process of opposite osmosis. The cost of the project is estimated at **100 million US dollars**. The duration of the work, which should begin in March 2006, is fixed at 24 months. Currently, this project is in the phase of technical-economic evaluation. Four tenderers were retained for this desalination unit of sea water. They are: Barna/Lemna (Spain), SNC Lavalin (Canada), the grouping Inima/SPA/Aquila (Spain), the grouping Geida-Cobra, Sadyt, Befesa, Codesa (Spain) and Ionics (the USA). See the website of [Elwatan](#) for further information. (Only in French)

7. The Council of Casablanca Area (**Morocco**) and the National office of drinking water signed recently a convention of bearing partnership on an envelope of **280 million DH** intended for the financing of a project of drinkable water conveyance and the liquid cleansing of the communes of Majatia, Ouled Talb, Haraouine, Sidi Hajaj, Oued Hassar, Beni Yakhlef, Chellalat, Sidi Moussa Ben Ali, Sid Moussa Majdoub, Bouskoura, Dar Bouâza, Ouled Saleh from here up to 2009. This convention lies within the scope of the national Initiative of human development (INDH). It will allow a population of almost the **306.000 inhabitants** cash among most underprivileged of the metropolis having access to drinking water. To know more, consult [the article](#) published by the Moroccan newspaper "Le Matin". (Only in French)

8. **The Dutch water sector** is unanimously positive about the Governmental Budget for 2006, presented recently. Special attention is given to **the Millennium Development Goals**. With globally more than **2.6 billion people** lacking basic sanitation, and over one billion people using unsafe drinking water, concerted and innovative efforts are needed. See [P-plus webpage](#) for further information.

9. "**How to fight against the floods?** Is it necessary to create more basins of storm? What is necessary to prevent that the underground sheets of water do not decrease?". During the first half of 2006, each Walloon will be able to deliver his opinion on the way of managing the water resources. The citizens will be able, indeed, to express themselves on this topic within the framework of a vast public investigation organized by the **Walloon Area (Belgium)**. It will take place from **January 1st to June 30, 2006**. To know more, consult [the article](#) published by the newspaper "Libre Belgique". (Only in French)

10. The European Investment Bank (**EIB**) lent **€150 million** for co-financing of priority projects fostering the development of **Latvia**. The loan will be used for investments in priority areas such as the development of transport, energy and water infrastructures. For example, the loan will finance projects related to the development of drinking water supply and waste water treatment in municipalities. See [EIB website](#) for further information.

11. The European Investment Bank (**EIB**) is lending **€25 million** for the upgrading of two existing hydroelectric power plants on the Kemijoki River in Lapland, northern **Finland**. The loan will co-finance the modernisation of the Permankoski and Ossauskoski hydropower plants involving a capacity increase of around 30% to 140 MWe. The upgrading and refurbishment of these facilities will have no discernible environmental impacts and is considered to be the least cost option for power generation. See [EIB press release](#) for further information.

12. A cheap and easy to use, **filter to remove arsenic from water** has been developed by a research team from the **UNESCO-IHE** Institute for Water Education (Delft, The Netherlands). If mass-produced, the filter could save tens of millions of lives all over the world. The UNESCO-IHE filter requires neither a power supply nor technical expertise. It uses iron-coated sand, a by-product

that is readily available almost everywhere around the world. The filter can therefore be produced locally at low cost. In order to produce it on a large scale the UNESCO-IHE launches a call with the sponsors. See [UNESCO website](#) for further information about this filter, and see [Actu-Environnement](#) (in French) for details about the call.

13. The groups plan to present their challenge at **the World Water Forum in Mexico** next March. The forum is a key global event to be hosted by the World Water Council (**WWC**), an international water policy think-tank. Anil Naidoo from the Council of Canadians, an NGO, said delegates discussed "potential joint approaches" to working at the forum. "These include inside-outside strategies designed to promote water justice and challenge those who want to privatise, control and commodify the world's water," he told IPS. Stefan Verwer from the Dutch NGO Both Ends says the focus on privatisation is a diversion from the real issue of water provision in developing countries. See [IPSnews](#) for more details.

14. **Five Danube countries** - Bosnia/Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Romania and Serbia/Montenegro – are working on a project to improve their performance as providers of **water quality information** to the public. Water data are vital as Danube Basin governments strive to make the best possible decisions for a speedy clean up of their shared water resource. Public participation supported by good data and information can play a significant role in assuring successful results and provide the "ammunition" that the public uses to keep governments moving toward meeting their water quality goals. The project will assist the countries in the processing of and responding to information requests, and how to actively make information available even before it is requested. See [REC website](#) for further details.

15. From now, researchers worldwide can follow the flow of rivers and height of lakes across the African continent from the comfort of their desks. A new web-based demonstration launched to coincide with this week's TIGER Workshop makes **Envisat**-derived altimetry data for **African inland water** freely available in near-real time. See [ESA website](#) for further information. On the other hand, An ambitious initiative to utilise ESA (**European Space Agency**) satellite data to improve availability and management of **African water resources** took a further step forward on a hill slope overlooking Rome. See [ESA website](#) for the details.

16. **Earth's wetlands** are havens for wildlife and vital to the water cycle, but they are also under threat. An ESA-led initiative aims to develop a global wetland information service based on Earth Observation for conservation efforts. The **Globwetland project** has now entered a new phase, with prototype products being developed based on sites across four continents. See more details at [ESA](#) website.

17. **Information technologies** present innovative ways to develop solutions to land and **water management challenges**. The question is how to deliver options to policy makers and water managers that are economically viable, socially acceptable and environmentally sustainable. Freshwater management challenges are increasingly common. Allocation of limited water resources between agricultural, municipal and environmental uses now requires the full integration of supply, demand, water quality and ecological considerations. ICT aims to incorporate these issues into practical yet robust tools for integrated water resources planning and more effective water resources development. You may find [here](#) a collection of links for your reference and use related to this topic.

18. An agreement on **space-based information services** and access to, and provision of, **Earth Observation data** was signed last 26 October by **ESA** and **the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission**. The signature took place at ESRIN, the ESA Earth Observation Centre in Frascati, Italy. See [ESA website](#) for further information.

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NOMINATIONS & VACANCIES

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19. **Ms. Roberta Camera** replaced Ms. Giovanna Fortuni as National Coordinator for the Italian Case Study of the ISIIMM project. Visit [the page](#) of this project at EMWIS website.

20. The **JRC Soil and Waste Unit** announces several **available positions**. See [the website of JRC](#) for information.

21. Invitation to register profiles for experts involved in **agricultural policy analysis** in the Central Eastern European Countries and in the Western Balkan. Initiated and supported by the EC (DG Research and DG Agriculture), the **CEEC AGRI POLICY project** aims at creating a network of experts involved in agricultural policy analysis in the New member States, in the Candidate Countries and in the countries from the Western Balkan. An [expert database](#) is available since June 2005. This database is designed to help experts to promote their competencies and initiate cooperation with other experts. Any person who has developed analysis related to agricultural policy in the Central Eastern European Countries and in the Western Balkan is invited to register by answering an online questionnaire. See [the website](#) or contact [Olivier Chartier](#) for further information.

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PUBLICATIONS

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22. EMWIS Technical Unit published the conclusions as well as the presentations of the **5th Coordination seminar of the EMWIS National Focal Points**, that was held in **Amman (Jordan)** the days: **27-29 September 2005**. These presentations tackle the following items: the current progress of EMWIS and its National Focal Points, examples of good practices, National water information systems, exchange of metadata, multilingual water thesaurus, progress of MEDA-water projects. See it all at [the page](#) of this event.

23. Examples of previous **twining agreements** signed before the starting of the **TwinBasin project** are [published](#).

24. "**CARE-W - Computer Aided Rehabilitation for Water Networks**", is a new publication from IWA publishing. CARE-W consists of software dealing with fundamental instruments for estimating the current and future condition of water networks, including tools to assess performance indicators (PI), to predict pipe failures (FAIL) and to calculate water supply reliability (REL). Based on the results of these tools, long-term investment needs are estimated (LTP tool) as well as annual rehabilitation projects selected and ranked (ARP tool). See [IWA publishing website](#) for additional information.

25. "[SIWI - Towards hydrosolidarity: ample opportunities for human ingenuity](#)", is a new publication of SIWI based upon the experiences from 15 years of Stockholm Water Symposia.

26. **The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) has a New Address:** Stockholm International Water Institute, SIWI - Drottninggatan 33 SE - 111 51 Stockholm, Sweden. [E-mail addresses](#) and phone numbers (Phone: +46 8 522 139 60) remain the same.

27. "**Desalination Markets: 2005-2015**" is a report based on original research, it assesses the outlook for the sector on a project by project, and country by country basis to provide an essential strategic planning resource. With more than 250 fact-filled pages, the report brings together the key national and regional data with expert analysis of the structural, political and financial issues

that will shape the industry over the next decade. For a complete index of this report click on [research and markets](#) website.

28. The book by Frank Fisher and Annette Huber-Lee (and lots of others) on using economic modelling to suggest ways of **managing conflicts over water**, using **Israel and Palestine**, as the main case study has been published: "Liquid Assets: An economic approach for water management & conflict resolution in the Middle East & beyond (Washington, DC: Resources for the Future, 2005). Contact [David B. Brooks](#) for further information.

29. A new book: "**Sustainable Water Management in the Mediterranean**" has just been published. A crucial factor for improving water management is the use of economic approaches and instruments. Eduard Interwies, Senior Fellow at Ecologic, illustrated the possible use of European experiences in the Mediterranean region. See [ecologic website](#) for further details.

30. "**Hydrology and Water Law – Bridging the Gap: A Case-study of HELP Basins**" by J Wallace & P Wouters will be published soon. Based largely on the actual experience of HELP (Hydrology for the Environment, Life and Policy), the overall aim of the book is to produce a series of case studies from around the world that demonstrate how the "gaps" between hydrology, water law and management are actually bridged in practice. See [IWA publishing](#) for further information.

31. "**Computational Methods in the Management of Hydro-Environmental Systems**" by V Nassehi & DB Das, provides concise, up-to-date and easy-to-follow information on an increasingly important area of hydro-environmental analysis and management. It covers important aspects of both surface and subsurface water quality management, as they are inseparable components of aquifers and the flow in physical domains occur in combination with the other. However, the main emphasis of the book is on the practical development and application of computer based algorithms, via appropriate schemes, to realistic problems. See [IWA publishing](#) for further information.

32. The case study, written by FAN Member; Association for the Development of Environmental Law and Economics and titled '**Implementing the Right to Water in France**' is now featured on the Right to Water page of the FAN site. [Read this](#) and other FAN member case studies.

33. **The Mediterranean Institute of Water (IME)** has just launched its monthly letter of Information. You can download it ([French version only available](#)).

34. The following report has been released on the **EEA** (European Environmental Agency) website: "**Effectiveness of urban wastewater treatment policies in selected countries**: an EEA pilot study" ([EEA Report No 2/2005](#)), published at EEA website.

35. The "**Plan Bleu**" just put its new website online. Its design has been rethought, so as its content which has been updated and enriched mainly through the insertion of the "Plan Bleu" map and graph library. See [the new website](#).

36. The International meeting on the implementation of the European Water Framework Directive "**EURO INBO**" which was held in Namur (Belgium) the days 29 September & 1st October 2005, published the communications and [the final resolutions](#). See [the website of INBO](#) for further information.

37. The 9th edition of **the 4th World Water Forum's Newsletter** has been published. See it at [World Water Forum](#) website.

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CALL FOR TENDERS and PROPOSALS

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38. The call for proposals for **LIFE 2005-2006** has been published in the EC Official Journal on the 21 June 2005 (OJ 149 of 21.06.2005). The EC invites organizations legally constituted in the eligible Third Countries, to present proposals for the LIFE selection round 2005-2006. The deadline of submission to the national competent authorities is **31 October 2005**. For the list of the national contact points see [the following link](#). On the other hand, the deadline of submission by the national competent authorities to the EC is: **30 November 2005**. Detailed information on how apply for funding and the application files for **LIFE-Third countries projects** are available on [LIFE web site](#).

39. [The EC's fourth call](#) FP6 Research Program 'Global Change and Ecosystems' is open until **3 November 2005**. The programme contains several environmental topics relevant to the SMAP programme, MEDA Countries entities are highly invited to participate. A total indicative budget of **205M €** is to be made available for different types of actions. The complete Information package including: the Call Text, the Work Programme and the Guides for Proposers for each type of action is available on the Cordis FP6-2005-Global-4 call [web page](#).

40. The World Water Council, the City of Kyoto, Soroptimist International of Kyoto and the 4th World Water Forum invite individuals and organizations to submit their candidatures for the first Kyoto World Water Grand Prize. An award of **JP¥5.000.000** (or approximately **US\$45.000**) will be given to the winning individual or organisation whose grassroot-level activities address critical water needs of communities and regions, corresponding to the overall theme of the 4th World Water Forum, "Local Actions for a Global Challenge." The application form is available only through the Prize's [webpages](#). Electronic submissions will be accepted until **October 31st, 2005**. For full information, see [the prize announcement](#).

41. [RSPB](#) and [CIWEM](#) are calling for entries for the 2006 Living Wetlands Award. The Award was established in 2003 by the two organisations to recognise and reward projects that demonstrate the multiple functions and sustainable use of wetland habitats. The prize includes **1500 GBP** to enhance the winning scheme's impact and the closing date for entries for the 2006 Award is **25 November 2005**. See [the call for entries](#) for more information.

42. **Grants for Strengthening Capacity in Water Resources Research Citizens** from Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda are eligible for grants of up to **US\$12.000** (€9.600) for work on various water issues from the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resource Development. Apply before: **Saturday 31 December 2005**. See [IFS \(International Foundation of Science\) website](#) for further information.

43. **WaDimena** is holding a competition for young professionals from the Middle East and North Africa region to participate in [the 4th World Water Forum in Mexico City, 16-22 March 2006](#). WaDimena will select up to seven (7) young professionals from the MENA region based on the response to the following question: Water demand management (WDM) offers an alternative approach to dealing with water stress by encouraging more efficient and equitable use of existing water resources. How have you promoted or facilitated WDM actions at the local level in one or more countries of the MENA region? All responses and CV's should be sent in either English or French by **24 November 2005** to [WaDimena](#) (Subject line: 4WWF). See [the entire announcement](#) (in French and English), and visit [WaDimena website](#) for more information on water demand management and capacity development opportunities for young professionals.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

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44. In order to deal with the process of compiling its mid-term evaluation, MEDIES asks you to send any information about your work after using the water material, by Monday, **31st of October 2005**. Information such as: brief reports, remarks & comments on the implementation of the material activities, [the evaluation sheet filled](#), presentations, photos, and any other relevant evaluation material is mostly needed and welcome.

45. **BALWOIS Conference on Water Observation and Information System for Decision Support** will be held in Ohrid, Republic of Macedonia, **23/26 May 2006**. The last call for papers is open till **15 February 2006** for receipt of the final presentations. Topics of interest are: Climate and Environment, Hydrological regimes and water balances, Droughts and Floods, Integrated water management, Lakes, Water protection and Eco-hydrology, Hydrological Modelling, Information Systems. All information on BALWOIS Information System is [available](#) on line, and on the conference itself also [here](#). Abstracts must be sent to [the secretariat](#).

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TRAINING

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46. **A Short course on Water recycling for urban applications** will be organised the days **13th & 14th December 2005** by the School of Water Sciences, Cranfield University, UK. This 2-day short course includes sessions on water quality standards, technology selection, public perception, and the economic analysis of reuse schemes. Discounted registration is available to a small number of delegates from developing countries. Further information available at [the website](#) of Cranfield University.

47. The ECO-IMAGINE Training Course: "**Coastal Governance, Planning and Design and GI**" will take place in **Nice** (France) on **November 21st- 26th, 2005**. Information about the event and the ECO-IMAGINE initiative is [available on line](#). See [EMWIS news section](#) for further information.

48. **SIWI**, together with **Sida and Ramboll Natura AB**, announced a two-part course, "**Integrated Transboundary Water Resource Management**" set to take place in South Africa, March 6 – 17, 2006, and in Sweden, May 29 – June 2, 2006. To reach international water goals requires that transboundary water is managed in an efficient and equitable manner. This programme aims at strengthening the capacities of the people and organisations involved. Application Deadline is **November 14**. See [SIWI website](#) for further information.

49. The **SWIFT-WD project** (EU FP6) is organising a Laboratory Training Course and a Policy Workshop (**1-4 November 2005**). It will focus on the "Quality assurance and quality control of monitoring river basins involving screening methods". The Laboratory Training Course [#T03, 1-2 November 2005] is intended for laboratory staff working in monitoring. The separately organised Policy Workshop [#W02, 3-4 November 2005] addresses participants from the environmental water policy area. Both events will be hosted by the Institute for Inland Water Management and Waste Water Treatment (RIZA), Lelystad, Netherlands. For further information see [the project's website](#) or [the leaflet and application form](#).

Up

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EVENTS

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2005-10-27/28 - Integrated River-Basin Management Seminar, Zaragoza, Spain.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-07/18 - EMWater Project Regional Training Courses: Efficient Management of Waste Water, its Treatment and Reuse in the Mediterranean Countries, Beirut, Lebanon.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-08/11 - The 14th Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (MCSD), Portoroz, Slovenia.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-08/13 - The X European Ecological Congress, Izmir, Turkey.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-10 - Information Seminar about EMWIS and the water sector in Lebanon, Beirut, Lebanon.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-10/11 - Earth Observation for vegetation monitoring and water management, Naples, Italy.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-13/16 - First EMPOWERS Regional Symposium, Cairo, Egypt.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-13/16 - Mediterranean and ESCWA Water Week, Beirut, Lebanon.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-14/17 - Second Mediterranean Conference on Water Resources in Mediterranean Basin, WATMED2, Marrakech, Morocco.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-20/22 - The 2nd seminar on Algerian wetlands, Béjaia, Algeria.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-21/22 - Regional Workshop on the theme: Conception and Sustainable Development of Mediterranean dams, Rabat, Morocco.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-21/25 - Workshop: "Instruments économiques et modernisation des périmètres irrigués dans les pays de la Méditerranée", Kairouan, Tunisie.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-21/26 - The ECO-IMAGINE Training Course: Coastal Governance, Planning and Design and GI, Nice, France.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-22/24 - International Seminar on Climatic & Anthropic Impacts in the Variability of Water resources, Montpellier, France.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-22/25 - The Global Water Crisis: Reality and Future, Murcia, Spain.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-23/25 - Colloque Incertitude et Environnement, Arles, France.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-24/25 - Euro-Mediterranean conference of the 35 water general directors, Rome, Italy.
For more information, [click here](#).

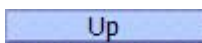
2005-11-24/26 - Journées techniques sur: les eaux souterraines et les produits phytosanitaires, Orléans, France.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-26/27 - Colloque International sur la Protection et la Préservation des Ressources en Eau (C.I.P.P.R.E 2005), Blida, Algeria.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-27/28 - 10th anniversary Summit of the EUROMED Partnership, Barcelona, Spain.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-28/12-09 - Integrated Water Resource Management Training in French, Stockholm, Sweden.
For more information, [click here](#).

2005-11-30/12-02 - **Postponed, due to practical reasons, to Mid March 2006:** Rural Development Integrating Solutions to Multifaceted River Basin problems, Lisbon, Portugal.
For more information, [click here](#).



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BRIEF EMWIS SITE MAP

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