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===== 1- These messages are contributions to the Mediterranean input to the 5th World Water Forum. It presents the outcomes of the Tunis 15th January workshop and the 2nd Beirut Water Week and the debates concerning the Mediterranean Session of the 5th World Water Forum. The Tunis workshop took place in Tunis on 15 January 2009. The event included 194 participants from different sectors of water management in the region and it is among the key meetings contributing to the regional preparatory process for the Istanbul Forum. Its message was further elaborated in the 2nd Beirut Water Week that was held in Beirut 4-7 February 2009, which included 240 participants from different organisations and sectors (directors, experts, researchers and other related stakeholders) of water management in the region. As agreed in Tunis (15 January 2009) , the overall Mediterranean Message, in addition to being an input to the strategic axes of the Ministerial Declaration of the 5th World Water Forum, addresses also the governments and stakeholders of the countries of the Union for the Mediterranean as a contribution for building a shared vision on the future of water in the region. This message used the language of the Tunis input to which it has added, elaborated upon and strengthened a number of

points. The Mediterranean approaches the Forum with renewed political commitment for sustainable water management through the recently adopted Ministerial Declaration at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water, 22 December 2008, at the Dead Sea, Jordan . Several recommendations were produced during interactive sessions involving all participants. Further information on EMWIS website . ===== IN BRIEF (Full news) ===== 2 - During the 5th World Water Forum to be held in Istanbul, 16-22 March 2009, the Mediterranean area will be well represented. Indeed, three regional and sub-regional processes will cover the full diversity of the region: the Mediterranean as such (Thursday morning, 19 March in Sultuce building), the MENA/Arab countries (Thursday afternoon) and the in/around Turkey (Wednesday afternoon). From the point of view of knowledge and data sharing, the theme 6 on Education, Knowledge and Capacity Development will be of particular relevance for the EMWIS community, while a side event on Water information systems will be held at the French Pavilion on 18 March 19h-21h . Further information on EMWIS website. 3- In early February 2009, at the request of the Arab group, the French-Egyptian co-presidency informed member countries that all Union for the Mediterranean meetings are suspended till the end of March. Thus the meetings envisaged within the context of the World Water Forum in Istanbul are cancelled. The 1st meeting of the Water Expert group could take place in April or May and the Ministerial conference on sustainable development, that should approve 3 to 5 water projects, is foreseen in June 2009. This announcement confirmed the freezing of the process noticed since the beginning of January following the Gaza events. Further information on EMWIS website. 4- Drought-stricken Mediterranean resorts in Spain, Greece and Cyprus are doing little to make tourism in the region sustainable. Countries bordering the Mediterranean are facing the prospect of water crises in coming years. Fuelling these crises are the 200 million sun-hungry travellers who visit the southern European region each year. Their number is expected to triple to 600 million by 2025, according to WWF. In a report about the threat of expanding tourism on the Mediterraneans water supplies, it observed that most resort tourists use almost four times the daily water consumption of an average Spanish city dweller. The green tourism trend is far from widespread in the Mediterranean. Many of the areas hotels claim they have adopted water-saving policies, but in practice these often amount to little more than asking guests to limit the number of towels they use, says Professor Murray Simpson at Oxford Universitys Centre for the Environment. Barcelona, Spains second largest city, has been forced to import drinking water to alleviate the effects of the countrys worst springtime drought on record. And Cyprus has announced that it will probably start importing water from mainland Greece in June. While climate change and shifting rainfall patterns are being blamed for part of the shortages, intensive agriculture, urban expansion and water-intensive tourist resorts and golf courses are considered the main drivers of the problem. To remain sustainable in the long term, the regions tourism industry may be best advised to adopt water-saving measures that go beyond washing fewer towels. Further information on EMWIS website 5- Partners in the current phase of the SMAP programme hold the final regional workshop in Alexandria on February 18 and 19, entitled 'Achievements and Prospects for the Future'. More than 150 officials and experts from the region and from Europe participated in the event, which crowns a decade of Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development. SMAP III supports the Mediterranean Partner Countries in their efforts to prevent environmental degradation, improve environmental standards and integrate environmental considerations in their policies. Funded by the Regional Programme, it promotes sustainable development and supports high priority environmental related activities, through technical and financial assistance. Further information on EMWIS website. 6- In the semi-arid to arid climatic conditions of the Middle East, water resources management is a contentious issue between parties sharing the same water resources. On the other hand, solving water problems has been identified as a topic of common

interest to Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians. The implementation of joint water-related projects is therefore seen as a hopeful sign and related projects have received substantial funding from the international donor community, especially the US and EU. This case study seeks to deepen the understanding of how the peacebuilding effects of regional water cooperation can best be harnessed, supported and sustained. It analyses two existing initiatives involving Jordanians, Israelis and Palestinians: the Good Water Neighbors project and the Regional Water Data Banks Project. The case analysis focusses on the design and implementation of cooperative processes, as both the form and content of cooperation are critical for peacebuilding. Building on the analysis of the two cases, as well as on broader knowledge on water cooperation, the report concludes with recommendations for funding agencies and third parties. This case study has been prepared by Adelphi Research within the framework of the EU-funded Initiative for Peacebuilding. Further information on EMWIS website 7- Preparatory talks were ongoing in January in Cairo between UNEP/MAP representatives and Egyptian authorities, in particular Dr. Mawabeh Abdel Moneim Abou El-Azm, CEO of the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA), regarding the preparations for the next meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development which will be hosted by the EEAA on 22-24 June, 2009 in Cairo. While in Cairo UNEP/MAP Coordinator also met with the Minister of State for the Environment Ing. Maged George. Minister Maged George expressed his appreciation to UNEP/MAP for having given the opportunity to the EEAA to host the next meeting of the MCSD which will be discussing "Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation - Experience and Strategies in the Mediterranean". Minister George said that subject matter of the meeting is of great importance because of the negative impact that climate change is expected to have in Egypt and in the whole of Africa for that matter. Further information on EMWIS website 8- A Europe-wide survey of rivers and streams has tested water samples for a range of polar organic pollutants. The study highlights the problems associated with the persistence of industrial pollutants and monitoring emerging pollutants. The continual entry of organic pollutants derived from personal care products, pharmaceuticals and industrial chemicals via wastewaters into rivers and streams is a cause for concern. The survey was conducted by collecting water from 122 sampling points from over 100 bodies of water throughout Europe in autumn 2007, representing a range of sizes, from small streams to large rivers. 27 European Countries, most of which were EU Member States, were covered. The research team, led by the European Commission's independent Joint Research Centre (JRC), identified the concentrations of the target pollutants and the number of times they were detected in rivers. The study also highlights the need to anticipate environmental problems stemming from the use of chemicals in Europe. In this context the new European legislation REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances), which requires companies to provide data on the amounts of chemicals used and to perform environmental risk assessments, will contribute also to the quantitative and qualitative understanding of water pollution. Further information on EMWIS website 9- On 18 March 2008, twenty companies of the European public water and sanitation services had gathered to launch Aqua Publica Europea, the first European network that promotes the public management of water and sanitation services. "Eau de Paris" announced the signing on February 3 of the statutes of this association to consolidate European public operators of water and sanitation services. Further information on EMWIS website 10- Using participatory approaches in water resources management has become extremely vital to insure achieving a mutual goal and come up with a win-win situation among stakeholders. IUCN West Asia/Middle East Regional Water Resources & Drylands Programme (REWARD) in cooperation with MercyCorps conducted a training workshop on Participatory Approach for Integrated Water Resources Management in Jordan during 4-6 January 2009. This workshop focused on enhancing the technical skills of participants in participatory water resource management plans, giving special attention to developing strategies, visioning, assessments, implementation and reflections. Twenty participants from Ministry of

Environment in Jordan, Royal Society for Conservation of Nature (RSCN), Arab Women Organization of Jordan, in addition to MercyCorps, Royal Scientific Society and the University of Jordan have participated in this workshop. Further information on EMWIS website 11- The Strategic Research Unit (SRU), National Water Research Centre (NWRC) in close cooperation with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) have organized a National Seminar on Key Policy Issues to Mainstreaming Gender in Water Management held on 18 January 2009 at the premises of the National Council for Women in Cairo. The main Purpose of the event was to: discuss the policy issues related to the mainstreaming of gender in the management of water resources, and have a set of recommendations to be forwarded to the politicians and decision-makers for their consideration. Many were the contributions on topics related to gender, water and the environment and the last part of the seminar was dedicated to working groups and their presentations. Further information on EMWIS website 12 - In a meeting joined by the different agricultural directors of the different governates in Jordan, the Minister of Agriculture Mr. Radi Al-Tarawna started the meeting with emphasis on the importance of executing the different articles, after being ratified by the authorities, of the agricultural deed which in turn will fulfil HH the King's vision that year 2009 will be the year of agriculture. Mr. Al-Tarawna stated that the different agricultural needs of the different governates to execute projects will be met according to the deed. Hence needs adding to a total of 108 m JD while having only 50 m JD allocated in the fiscal budget, will be met. The deed discussed the problems in the agricultural sector especially the increase in the cost of the production material, fluctuation of rain amounts and its irregularity, the several consequent drought years which reduced the quality and quantity of the surface irrigation and underground waters, the lack of seeds for the crops products, the inadequacy of the laws supporting the ideal methods for using existing raw materials for production, the lack of adequate investments to manufacture and utilize the leftovers of the olive squeezing industry and the lack of suitable locations for handling the leftovers and finally the high cost of production in the olive oil industry. Further information on EMWIS website. 13- Jordan Valley Farmers are experiencing a severe lack of rainfall and urgent steps are needed to expand the area covered by greenery and promote the efficient use of water, environmentalists say. Jordan does not have lakes or rivers except for the River Jordan which faces water scarcity in its basin. The kingdom's water supply depends on dams or underground reservoirs that collect water during winter. Experts say most of the country's water reserves come from rain that falls in December and January, but this year there are problems: Rainfall to date constituted 32 percent of the average annual rainfall in northern areas and 22 percent in central areas. Further information on EMWIS website . See also: " Jordan: Water problems resurface " & " Drought in Jordan Calls People to Pray for Rain and the Controversial Dead-Red Peace Canal ". 14- Fresh on the heels of Israel, Egypt, and the UAE , who have all recently made commitments for a renewable energy future, Jordan recently launched EDAMA, an initiative to help Jordan reduce energy demand, water usage, and protect the environment. EDAMA Chairperson Karim Kwar indicates that Jordan is using its energy and water resources in an economically and environmentally unsustainable manner. Kwar also indicates that Jordan is consuming water from its aquifers at twice the renewable rate. The EDAMA initiative intends to respond to these challenges by developing a comprehensive strategy "that streamlines efforts towards effective energy sector performance, increases private sector participation and investment and reduces the environmental impact of energy and water use." EDAMA is supported by USAID, whose Mission Director Jay Knott commented that increased energy, water, an environment productivity will also provide opportunities for growth and investment that benefit Jordan's entire economy. Further information on EMWIS website 15- Though there is still more than one month left in the rainy season, the writing is already on the wall: Expect another dry winter that will worsen the state of Israel 's water economy. To date, most parts of the country have received only 60 to 80 percent of their normal rainfall for this time of year. The situation is particularly

International portal

grave around Lake Kinneret , which is Israel 's principal water source. In an effort to increase supply, the water authority plans to expand drilling in areas such as the Golan Heights, the Hula Valley and the eastern Galilee. In 2008 water allocation for farming was already at its lowest point since the establishment of the state, at 450 million cubic meters. Further information on EMWIS website . See also: ' Israel: Water shortage predicted amid dry spell '. 16- Private investors are being sought by the Israeli national water company Mekorot to take a 40% stake in the planned 274,000 m/d Ashdod desalination plant, for which it has just been given full responsibility by the Israeli government. Mekorot made the announcement on 25 January 2009 ahead of the publication of the invitation to tender. Mekorot originally conceived the project as a turnkey contract. Instead, Giora Gutman, CEO of Mekorot Enterprises, said that the company might offer a partnership of up to 40% of the franchise for the sale of water to the state and operation of the plant. Further information on EMWIS website 17- A delegation from the Syrian Ministry of Local Administration and Environment discussed last January 12nd in Damascus with a delegation from the French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Territorial Development the possibility of establishing vital projects in the fields of water and environment in Syria, which will be sponsored by the Union for the Mediterranean . The Director of the General Department of Environmental Affairs pointed out that Syria has a shortage of water resources and a wealth of fertile lands, which calls for finding proper means to use these resources, especially in light of the population boom that surpassed 20 million persons, which calls for resorting to modern irrigation projects. He added that Syria has already started taking steps in that regard, but it needs bigger support to achieve optimal use of modern irrigation by carrying out water recycling projects, establishing water processing plants and removing pollution from rivers, stressing that these projects are vital for Syria in confronting climate shifts. For their parts, the French delegation expressed desire to continue studying the project for desalinating water from the Mediterranean, calling for bolstering Syrian-French relations in the fields of water and environment by strengthening cooperation between the two ministries. Further information on EMWIS website 18- The European Commission is making available a €149 million package to Egypt within the 2008 Annual Action Programme under the ENPI, Commissioner for External Relations and ENP Benita Ferrero-Waldner has announced after talks in Brussels with the Egyptian Health Minister. A Commission press release said the focus of the programmes financed under this package would be on education, reforms in the transport sector, improvement of the water and waste water services and support for civil society. The 2008 package includes €29 million to Improve Water and Waste Water Services . These funds will be combined with other European donors (KfW, EIB and AFD) and those of the Egyptian government for a total project value of €295 million . The project will improve water quality and output as well as wastewater services in several governorates, directly benefitting over 4 million people. In addition to the €149 million, €15 million has been made available under the Neighbourhood Investment Facility to support multi-donor projects in the solar energy and water sectors . Further information on EMWIS website 19- The project led to the construction of a new drinking water network line, which will be resistant to potential earthquakes taking place in the region and be sufficient for the population until 2037. The aim of the EU-funded Beytahtı drinking water project , which takes its name from the water network that supplies water to most parts of the Erzincan Municipality, is to provide healthy water with minimal administrative costs to the people living in the area. The Beytahtı Drinking Water Project in Erzincan Municipality is one of the successful projects implemented under the small scale infrastructure grant component. The project focuses on key objectives such as eliminating regional disparities, protecting public health and safety, harmonising economic and social policies, increasing living standards and addressing urban problems. The network is expected to produce healthy drinking water for a total of 250,000 inhabitants. Further information on EMWIS website 20- Three companies are said to be shortlisted for a project to build a floating desalination plant to supply the southern coastal town of Limassol,

according to Sofoklis Aletraris, the new head of Cyprus' Water Development Department . The Cyprus government plans to buy water from a floating desalination platform, to be installed off the southern coastal town of Limassol, Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment Michalis Polinikis has said. This will be the country's second floating desalination plant with a capacity of 20,000-50,000 m³/d (5.3 to 13.2 MGD) and is expected to operate for five years until another permanent plant can be built at Episkopi. At the same time, the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of a committee to oversee the construction of desalination units in Cyprus, following the proposal of the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment, Michalis Polynikis. The minister has also set in motion an upgrade for the Dhekalia plant. Cyprus is faced with severe drought; rainfall in the past 2-3 years has been very limited. Last year, the government imposed restrictions in the supply of water to households but essential services such as hospitals are spared. Further information on EMWIS website . See as well: " Cyprus desalination plant gets underway " & " Cyprus: Floating desalination plant coming to Limassol ".

21- Cyprus runs the risk of desertification by the end of this century as it feels the brunt of climate change and drought, an expert warned. Studies project a rise in summer temperatures on the east Mediterranean island of between two and four degrees this century, compared to the 1960 to 1990 reference periods, Professor Manfred Lange, a geophysicist, said in an interview. By the end of this century, Cyprus can expect an extra two months of days with temperatures exceeding 35 degrees centigrade on top of the present summer months of June, July and August, Lange said. There is also likely to be less rainfall and increased evaporation because of higher temperatures . Cyprus now uses energy-intensive desalination to meet some of its water requirements, while its population of around one million live with rationing and a permanent hosepipe ban. Further information on EMWIS website

22- Spanish company Befesa Agua has won a construction contract for a reverse-osmosis (RO) pilot desalination plant to be built next to the L'Ampolla water treatment plant in Tarragona, Spain. The future industrial facility will treat only half of the treatment plant's effluent, which will be mixed with the rest of the non-demineralised drinking water. The resulting flow for distribution will be within legal parameters. Further information on EMWIS website

23- Following word from Eurockot that launch of the Earth Explorer SMOS satellite can take place between July and October this year, ESA, CNES and the prime contractor Thales Alenia Space are now making detailed preparations for the last crucial steps before ESA's water mission is placed in orbit. The Soil Moisture and Ocean Salinity (SMOS) satellite has been in storage at Thales Alenia Space's facilities in Cannes, France since May last year awaiting for a third stage of the Rockot launcher to be assigned to the mission and a slot given for launch from the Russian Plesetsk Cosmodrome 800 km north of Moscow. SMOS is the first mission dedicated to measuring both the moisture in soil and salt in the surface waters of the oceans. Mapping soil moisture and ocean salinity, ESA's water mission will further our understanding of the water cycle key to advancing research into global and regional climate change as well as weather and extreme-event forecasting. Further information on EMWIS website

24- Like most sub-Saharan African countries, Niger faces problems meeting its water needs. As part of ESAs TIGER initiative, satellite data are being used to identify underground water resources in the drought-prone country. ESAs WADE (Water resources Assessment using SAR in Desert and arid lands in West African Ecosystems) project, funded by the Data User Element (DUE), uses ERS and Envisat Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) imagery to map and monitor the location and extent of surface water bodies and to identify potential areas for water infiltration. ESA launched the TIGER initiative in 2002 to exploit Earth Observation (EO) technologies in order to respond to the urgent need for reliable water information in Africa. WADE is one of five TIGER Innovator projects, which use the latest EO technology to develop innovative, low-cost solutions to support African water authorities in the conservation and monitoring of scarce water resources. Further information on EMWIS website

25- Shown by Danfoss at the EuroMed exhibition in Jordan last November, the

WaterCube 2 is a small domestic seawater reverse-osmosis desalination unit with a capacity of 5,300 L/d. Intended for the large villa or small hotel, the unit takes up little more room than a fridge-freezer and will consume a mere 0.8 kW/h at full capacity, corresponding to <3.5 kWh/m. The water purification process has been adjusted to minimise the load on the membranes significantly reducing the risk of fouling. Only 20% of the total volume of water passing through the machine is processed into drinking water. This way, the salt content in the brine is only marginally higher than that of the feedwater. Further information on EMWIS website

===== NOMINATIONS and VACANCIES

===== 26- New team (at the Water

Development Department) has been nominated as National Focal Point of EMWIS in Cyprus: The new coordinator, IT manager and information manager are successively: Nicholas CHRISTOFIDES, Nicoletta HADJIYIANNI and Chrysanthos CHRYSANTHOU. We remind that a new water director (new head of the WDD) has been nominated: Sofoclis ALETRARIS. Further information on EMWIS website

27- Netherlands ambassador Ronald Mollinger was officially announced as the new director of the Middle East Desalination Research Center (MEDRC) in Oman on 21 January. Also announced at the same time was the promotion of Shannon McCarthy to deputy MEDRC director. Further information on EMWIS website

28- Mr. Batir Wardam has just resigned from his latest position as an Environment Analyst in the UNDP Country Office in Jordan. Starting Sunday Feb 15th he has assumed his new responsibility as Project Coordinator for the "Zarqa River Basin Rehabilitation Project" implemented by the Ministry of Environment and funded by the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) with technical partnership by the IUCN Regional Office for West Asia and Middle East. The project attempts to build national capacities and initiate a concerted national response to the severe levels of degradation to which river basins in Jordan are subject using the Zarqa river basin as a pilot region for the adoption of an Ecosystem based approach to sustainable water resources management incorporating all levels of interventions from research to policy development to field testing and involving all relevant stakeholders and interest groups from government, non-government, private and local communities sectors. Further information on EMWIS website

29- River restoration project STREAM, STRategic REStoration and Management of the River Avon, has won CIWEM's Living Wetlands Award. The River Avon has long been valued by anglers and nature conservationists and is the largest unimproved floodplain grazing land in Britain. However, extensive land drainage had changed the local habitat and broken the links between the river and floodplains. STREAM is restoring the river through a catchment approach and link management of the river and floodplain. STREAM runs for four years and is supported financially by the European Commission's LIFE-Nature fund, Natural England, Environment Agency, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Wessex Water. Further information on EMWIS website

30- King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia invites applications for faculty positions in the area of Water Desalination and Reuse. KAUST (www.kaust.edu.sa) will open in September 2009 as an international, graduate-level research university dedicated to inspiring a new age of scientific achievement in the Kingdom, the region, and the world. KAUST is a graduate-level research university supported by a multi-billion dollar endowment, and its core campus is located on the Red Sea at Thuwal approximately 80 kilometers north of Saudi Arabias second largest city, Jeddah. Further information on EMWIS website

31- Post-Doctoral position on "Vegetation Transport in Irrigation Canals" offered by Cemagref, Montpellier (France): This Post Doc researcher will be incorporated to a research group specialized in hydraulic modeling and management of irrigation canals and rivers. He/she will work in particular for a project dealing with the development of vegetation in canals, its management by hydraulic methods and its impact on water quality. Closing date: March 15, 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website

32- The 2009 SEED Awards for Entrepreneurship in sustainable development will

open for submissions in January 2009. The call for initial expressions of interest will open in early January 2009 and close in mid-March 2008 . Winners will be announced at the UN Commission for Sustainable Development in New York in May 2009. From that date, details will be available at www.seedinit.org. Further information on EMWIS website . 33 - SwissRe invites applications for the International ReSource Award for Sustainable Watershed Management 2009: The Award worth USD 150 000 is an internationally recognized prize for leadership in implementing the principles of sustainability in watershed management, and is granted to one or several projects selected by an international jury. The prize money is open to NGOs, private, scientific and public institutions. As the worlds leading and most diversified global reinsurer, Swiss Re offers financial services products that enable risk taking essential to enterprise and progress. Deadline: 31 May 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website =====

PUBLICATIONS ===== 34- The Economic website www.economie.eaufrance.fr has been completely revised and newly available online. This website identifies the sources of economic data on the uses of water. It provides an overview of data sources and documentation organized under five major themes: WFD (EU Water Framework Directive), activities related to water, the costs and benefits, funding of services & pricing of water. Further information on EMWIS website . 35- "Atlas of the water in Tunisia " : Th is new book presents a mapping and regionalization of water aspects and issues in Tunisia. This book is the culmination of a project developed by the Research Unit "GREVACHOT" (Groupe de Recherche sur la Variabilit du Climat et l'Homme) in Tunisia, University of Tunis. Further information on EMWIS website 36- Just released the report of the Committee on the world economic activities related to water. It shows the players in water management and management ways (direct management or governance, public service delegation in France, privatization), private groups, institutions. It also describes the economic activities related to water. Further information on EMWIS website 37- The Global Water Partnership (GWP) announces its new global strategy, one that focuses on the achievement of four major goals during the period 2009-2013. GWPs educational and advocacy role since 1996 for an integrated approach to the management and development of water resources has contributed to changes in policies and legislation. The new strategy aims to build on those successes by pushing water higher up the development agenda. Further information on EMWIS website 38- The GWP website has published the new publication "Planning for a Water secure future" - Lessons from water management planning in Africa. Further information on EMWIS website 39- BBC World News is repeating the Zer0-M (one of MEDA-Water projects) video by Joshka Wessels and TVE, Waste not Waste. Further information on EMWIS website 40- The new ACWUA Wiki is now online. Used as knowledge and document management platform as well as a collaboration platform it offers a great benefit exclusively for Arab Countries Water Utilities Association (ACWUA) members. Further information on EMWIS website 41- The 1st general assembly of Arab Countries Water Utilities Association ACWUA was performed during the 2nd ACWUA Best Practise Conference "Capacity Development for Water and Sanitation Utilities in the Arab Region" on November 18th-19th 2008 in Alexandria/Egypt. The conference brought together more than 200 experts from all stakeholders involved in Capacity Development, especially the operators and the practitioners from the Arab Region. The conference documented the up-to-date Know-How and Best Practice of the Arab region by country reports, sessions about quality management in utilities, various case studies and a panel discussion, and introduced new approaches for more efficient management in the field of water and sanitation. All the presentations of the conference are available online now. Further information on EMWIS website 42- The Tunisian Association of Digital Geographic Information has just published selected researches and abstracts presented in GeoTunis 2008 and some number of presentations. GeoTunis took place in Tunis (Tunisia) on 26-30 November 2008 with the participation of scholars, experts, researchers, companies and research laboratories which use the geographic information

systems and remote sensing. Further information on EMWIS website 43- "Assessing Vulnerability to Global Environmental Change: Making Research Useful for Adaptation Decision Making and Policy": This book presents the state-of-the-art in vulnerability science, based on first-hand experience since this new field emerged - an essential resource for advanced students and scholars. Covering aspects of natural and social sciences, it discusses case studies from developed and developing countries. Further information on EMWIS website 44- "Sanitation and Cleanliness for a Healthy Environment" : This booklet addresses the different sanitation and hygiene needs of women and men. It gives communities information about how significant sanitation improvements can be made by better use of indigenous skills and local resources. Communities are offered a choice of affordable, safe, and environmentally sound sanitation alternatives. This booklet is designed to be an important part of the Community Water Initiative, stimulating communities to take charge of their sanitation development for a better life. Further information on EMWIS website 45- Expert Group on 'Diversified funding streams for university-based research : impact of external project-based research funding on financial management in universities' has published its final report (2008). This report underlines the shared responsibilities of universities, national governments and research funders in enhancing the financial sustainability of university-based research which underpins the long-term competitiveness of European Research. Further information on EMWIS website . 46- The ETo calculator is a software developed by the Land and Water Division of FAO. Its main function is to calculate reference evapotranspiration (ET_o) according to FAO standards. ET_o represents the evapotranspiration rate from a reference surface, not short of water. ET_o calculator version 3.1, issued in January 2009, is written in Borland DELPHI and runs in the DOS environment. The program is available in English, and is distributed as Land and Water Digital Media Series No 36. It includes a Reference Manual, which explains the use of the computer program. Further information on EMWIS website 47- Land and Water Discussion Paper # 7: Coping with water scarcity: what role for biotechnologies? Biotechnology tools can play a valuable role in addressing the challenge of water scarcity in developing countries, but many applications of biotechnology relevant to water scarcity have not yet delivered practical solutions to farmers. Further information on EMWIS website 48- AquaCrop, the FAO crop-model to simulate yield response to water of several herbaceous crops, is now available for download. It is designed to balance simplicity, accuracy and robustness, and is particularly suited to address conditions where water is a key limiting factor in crop production. AquaCrop is a companion tool for a wide range of users and applications. Further information on EMWIS website 49- "Proceedings of the International Executive Seminar: Earth observation for improving water management in Africa ": During the seminar Earth Observation for Improving Water Management in Africa: Developing Human, Technical and Institutional Capacity which was held from 23 to 25 September 2008 at the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC), Enschede, The Netherlands, scientists, water managers from Africa and staff from knowledge centres have been addressing the question: How can the knowledge available in the area of satellite data use for water management purposes be strengthened in Africa? The seminar was jointly organized by the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and ITCs Department of Water Resources. Further information on EMWIS website 50- The Italian National IHP Committee releases report on the "International Symposium on the Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management" for UNESCO and IAHS . Within the scope of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO, an international symposium on "The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management" was held on the isle of Capri from 13-16 October 2008. The purpose of the symposium was to discuss ways to achieve a stronger involvement of hydrologists in decision processes impacting on the water balance. At the symposium, hydrologists and decision makers from the fields of politics, economy and social sciences active in the broader periphery of hydrology or whose decisions have a sustainable impact on water resources, were invited to discuss these topics. Further information on

EMWIS website 51- Final Report of "The 12th Biennial Conference of Mediterranean Network: Hydrological Extremes in Small Basins" has been published. This conference took place on 18-20 September 2008 at the Jagiellonian University, Institute of Geography and Spatial Management in Cracow, Poland. The topics were: predictions of stream- flow response in controlled and uncontrolled catchments, hydrological models calibration, hydro-chemical and geomorphological responses to the extremes, interactions between surface- and ground-water, extreme value statistics, and model data-time-step dependency on basin characteristics. Traditionally, one session was devoted to new ideas in hydrological research. Further information on EMWIS website 52- UNESCO Water Portal Newsletter No. 212: Water Footprints and Virtual Water . Further information on EMWIS website 53- The Issue No 11 of the GEWAMED Newsletter (Mainstreaming Gender Dimensions Into Water Resources Development and Management in the Mediterranean Region) is now online. Further information on EMWIS website 54- FAO has just published a new book entitled "Coping with water scarcity: What role for biotechnologies?" by J. Ruane, A. Sonnino, P. Steduto and C. Deane. The publication brings together the background paper and summary report from a moderated e-mail conference that was organised by FAO as one of its initiatives to mark World Water Day 2007, whose theme was "Coping with water scarcity". Further information on EMWIS website 55- The Learning for Sustainability site - <http://learningforsustainability.net> - brings together resources to help us address the social and capacity building aspects of managing our water and other natural resources in a sustainable manner. This resource has been substantially revised and updated over the past month as a guide to on-line resources for researchers and practitioners interested in supporting social learning and collective action. Further information on EMWIS website 56- The International Network of Basins Organisations "INBO"'s Newsletter: December 2008 - January 2009 N17 is available online . See also the previous issue n16 . 57- WaDImena Monthly Drop 19 - February 09: This newsletter published by the WaDImena initiative is a bulletin of information issued on monthly basis and provides information, news and resources related to water demand management in the Middle East and North Africa region. Further information on EMWIS website
===== CALL FOR TENDERS and PROPOSALS ===== 58- ENPI region Call for proposals (Cooperation between local actors): A restricted Call for Proposals to promote mutual understanding, dialogue and cooperation between local actors in the EU and in the partner countries of the Neighbourhood region (ENPI region), through the provision of capacity building for the modernization and strengthening of local and regional government, has been published. A total of €11.000.000 are available for the purpose of awarding co-financing grants. In the first instance only Concept Notes must be submitted for evaluation, before 27 February 2009 , for the Call "Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue" (EuropeAid/127778/C/ACT/MULTI). Further information on EMWIS website 59- The first call for proposals on standard projects for the ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin' Programme will be launched by the end of February, according to a press release. Representatives of participating countries approved the text and other details of the call at a meeting of the second Joint Monitoring Committee in Jordan on January 14-16. The Programme aims at promoting cross-border projects between local actors from the two shores of the Mediterranean Sea in the fields of socio-economic development, environmental sustainability , mobility of persons, goods and capitals, cultural dialogue and local governance. The Programme has a budget of €173 million for the period 2007-2013 . Further information on EMWIS website 60- A Call for proposals (EAC/01/2009) has been published under the Tempus IV programme. The Call invites the submission of cooperative projects under two actions types, Joint Projects ' and Structural Measures ', from partnerships comprised of higher education institutions, enterprises, ministries, NGOs, associations etc., from the EU and the Partner Countries. The indicative total budget for this Call amounts to approximately €53 million in total, and the individual projects grants from €0.5 to

€1.5 million. Proposals must be submitted by 28 April 2009 . The Tempus programme supports the modernisation of higher education and creates an area of co-operation in countries outside the EU. Established in 1990 the scheme covers 28 countries in the Western Balkans, Eastern Europe, Central Asia, North Africa and the Middle East. Further information on EMWIS website 61- Transnational Territorial Cooperation Programme Med 2nd call for proposals launched from February 16th to March 13th : European territorial cooperation programme 2007-2013 with a budget of 256 617 688 € co-financed by the ERDF, the MED Programme involves the Mediterranean and coastal regions of nine EU Member States (Cyprus, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, UK, and Slovenia) as well as three Mediterranean countries that are candidates or potential candidates to the EU: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro). The budget for each participating IPA country comes from IPA (Instrument of Pre-Accession) funds. The general orientation is developed through four main Axes in connection with the main priorities of the ERDF regulation: Innovation, Environment (water management, energy efficiency, risk prevention & environmental protection activities with a clear transnational dimension), Accessibility and Sustainable urban development. Further information on EMWIS website

===== CALL FOR PAPERS

===== 62- The STRIVER Final

Conference 'Integrated water resource management in theory and practice' will be arranged in Brussels May 28-29, 2009. Abstract submission by March 1, 2009 . This open international conference is intended as an arena for discussions around recent findings in the field of integrated water resources management (IWRM). Contributions from researchers, water managers, river basin planners and policy makers are particularly stressed. Further information on EMWIS website 63- Call for papers for the Special issue: "Hydraulic Bureaucracies: Flows of Water and Power". This special issue will include case studies from various countries that will emphasize the inner historical transformations and the role of these water bureaucracies in the transformation of landscapes, as well as in the formation of the state and wider social relationships. Deadline: 1 st of March 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website . 64- UNESCO Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK, will hold a two day Conference on Water Utilities and Law in Scotland in 3-4 September 2009. The Conference will address the role of law in promoting appropriate policies, structural design and regulatory solutions in order to meet the Millennium Development Goals target of reducing the proportion of people without access to sustainable, safe drinking water by half. Abstracts should be received by April 15th, 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website 65- Call for Papers for the International Conference "Water, Waste and Environment - Union for the Mediterranean". This international conference will be held on 26-27 November 2009 in El Jadida (Morocco), organized by the University Chouab Doukkali, Faculty of Sciences El Jadida, in partnership with Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Géologie Nancy France. Deadline for submission of abstracts: 31 July 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website . 66- Call for abstracts for the RSPSoc2009: The 2009 Remote Sensing and Photogrammetry Annual Conference. This conference will be held in Leicester, UK in 8-11 September 2009. 27th March 2009 : Deadline for abstract submission. Further information on EMWIS website . 67- Call for papers for the 1st International Conference on "Coastal Zone Management of River Deltas and Low Land Coastlines": CZMRDLLC 2010. The main objective of the conference that will take place in Alexandria (Egypt) in 6-10 March 2010; is to bring engineers, scientists, managers, government agencies and officials world wide to exchange information and address the outstanding problems associated with coastal erosion / accretion / subsidence occurring on shorelines of river deltas and low land areas being increasingly influenced by manmade interference. Another objective is to propose sustainable solutions to minimize and adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change in the framework of Integrated Coastal Zone Management. Extended deadline for abstracts: March 6, 2009 . Further information on EMWIS

website 68- The IMPETUS Africa Conference "Global Change in Africa - Projections, Mitigation and Adaptation" will be held from June 2nd to 5th 2009 at the University of Cologne (Germany).

Deadline of abstract submission: 31st March 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website 69- Call for papers for the SHF Symposium on Heatwave, drought and Water Uses: This symposium will be held in Lyon (France) on 7-8 October 2009. The objective of this symposium is to be a guide for reflection on "Water Governance" considering Droughts and rare & extreme shortages of water resources. Proposals for papers should be sent before 20 March 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website ===== TRAINING

===== 70- A "Short course on Negotiation and mediation for water conflict" will be jointly offered by UNESCO's "From Potential Conflict to Cooperation Potential" programme (PCCP) and the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education. The course will introduce the basic concepts of water cooperation, conflict prevention and mitigation. The course will be held from 6 to 24 April 2009 in te Hague & Delft (The Netherlands) and the deadline for applications is 6 March 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website . 71- "Financial

Management of Water Organizations": The aim of this course is to prepare participants for positions of leadership in water sector and utility management. The course will be held from 27 April to 15 May 2009 in Delft (The Netherlands) and the deadline for applications is 27 March 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website . 72- Bicultural Master Course Integrated Water Resource

Management for Arab and German Professionals: This new Master will be offered to 10 selected Arab applicants and 10 selected German applicants. The preparatory course, as well as the first term, will be offered in Amman (WERSC, University of Jordan), Jordan. The second term will be offered in Cologne (ITT, Cologne University of Applied Sciences), Germany. During the third term the students will work on their master thesis related to the Arab or German water sector. The Arab students shall be granted full scholarships for the entire duration of the course, whereas the German students shall receive a partial scholarship covering their journey to Jordan and their stay during the Master thesis in an Arab country. Application Deadline for Applicants: March 31st, 2009 . Further information on EMWIS website 73- [2009/04/06 - 2009/04/24] Short course on Negotiation and mediation for water conflict, Delft, the Netherlands. Further information on EMWIS website 74-

[2009/03/12 - 2009/03/12] Les Journes de l'OIEau 2009: "LES POLLUTIONS EMERGENTES EN TRAITEMENT DE POTABILISATION", Paris, France. Further information on EMWIS website 75- [2009/03/09 - 2009/03/20] IP3 second annual two-week intensive course on Demand Management In Water and Energy: Innovations to Improve Sector Efficiencies, Washington, DC, USA Further information on EMWIS website =====

EVENTS (Full Agenda) ===== [2009/0 4

/ 06 - 2009/04/0 9] Infrastructure Syria 2009 , Damascus, Syria Further information on EMWIS

website [2009/0 4 / 06 - 2009/04/0 7] Conference : "Responding to the Challenge of Sustainable

development in the Mediterranean" , Nice, France. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/0 4

/ 02 - 2009/04/0 3] 2nd European Water Conference 2009 , Brussels, Belgium Further information

on EMWIS website [2009/0 4 / 02 - 2009/04/0 2] Water Supply and Ressource Protection: Seminar

at Congress WASSER BERLIN 2009 , Berlin, Germany Further information on EMWIS website

[2009/0 4 / 01 - 2009/04/0 2] 10th River Restoration Conference 2009: River restoration benefits:

past, present and future , Nottingham, UK Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/31 -

2009/04/01] Final MBR-Network Workshop: Selected results of European research projects on MBR

technology , Berlin, Germany Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/31 - 2009/04/01]

Colloque SHF - "Utilisation de l'imagerie satellite pour l'tude de l'eau dans le sol et le proche sous sol

, Toulouse, France. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/30 - 2009/04/03] 5th IWA

Specialist Conference: Oxidation Technologies for Water & Wastewater Treatment , Berlin,

Germany. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/30 - 2009/04/03] Wasser Berlin -

International portal

International Trade Fair and Congress for Water and Wastewater , Berlin, Germany. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/30 - 2009/04/02] International Workshop on Status and Perspectives of Hydrology in Small Basins , Goslar-Hahnenklee, Germany Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/30 - 2009/04/03] Improving the ecological status of fish communities in inland waters - International Symposium and EFI+ Workshop , Hull, UK Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/30 - 2009/03/31] Arabian Power & Water Summit , Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/27 - 2009/03/29] Le Forum de Paris 2009: SAUVER LA MEDITERRANEE , Paris, France. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/26 - 2009/03/27] 5th International Monaco and the Mediterranean Symposium: Fair and sustainable management of fresh water in the Mediterranean , Monaco Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/26 - 2009/03/27] UNEP-MAP: 2nd Meeting of the Compliance Committee , Athens, Greece Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/25 - 2009/03/29] 10th Mediterranean Research Meeting (Workshop11): " Law of Water Management in the Mediterranean Past, Present, Future " , Florence and Montecatini Terme, Italy Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/25 - 2009/03/27] Final Conference on River Basin Management: Processes, data, future scenarios , Tbingen, Germany Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/22 - 2009/03/22] World Water Day 2009 on "Shared Water - Shared Opportunities" , Istanbul, Turkey Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/17 - 2009/03/19] 8th edition of the International Environmental Technology Trade Show and Conference: AMERICANA 2009 , Montral, Canada Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/16 - 2009/03/22] World Water Forum 5th, Topic Sessions Proposal- Topic 3.1: "Basin Management and Trans-boundary Cooperation" , Istanbul, Turkey Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/16 - 2009/03/22] The 5th World Water Forum , Istanbul, Turkey Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/16 - 2009/03/16] Une journe d'tudes sur la gestion des pnuries d'eau , Paris, France Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/16 - 2009/03/19] Mission dco-entreprises de leau en Turquie, 5me Forum Mondial de IEau , Istanbul, Turkey Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/13 - 2009/03/14] Forum "Dialogues dans la Mditerrane occidentale : les rgions europennes pour la coopration dcentralise et la dmocratie participative" , Genova, Italy. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/12 - 2009/03/13] Water Power and Climate Change , Dresden, Germany Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/12 - 2009/03/13] PI09 Benchmarking water services - the way forward , Amsterdam, The Netherlands Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/12 - 2009/03/13] Conference on water and climate change adaptation , Brussels, Belgium. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/12 - 2009/03/15] IWTC-2009: Thirteenth International Water Technology Conference 2009 , Hurghada, Egypt Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/11 - 2009/03/13] The International Conference Xenobiotics in the Urban Water Cycle XENOWAC 2009 , Paphos, Cyprus Further information on EMWIS website [2009/0 3 / 12 - 2009/0 3 / 12] Colloque pour une rgulation des services deau en France , Paris, France. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/10 - 2009/03/12] International Scientific Congress on Climate Change: Global Risks, Challenges and Decisions , Copenhagen, Denmark Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/06 - 2009/03/06] CEE Water 2009 Ensuring a sustainable future for the CEE Water Industry , Warsaw, Poland Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/05 - 2009/03/05] Workshop "Membrane technologies for alternative water resources" , Thessaloniki, Greece Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/05 - 2009/03/05] Water Conservation - Targets and Integrated Thinking , London, UK Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/04 - 2009/03/04] A consultation event on the Draft BS 8550 Guide to auditing of water quality sampling , London, UK Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/0 2 - 2009/03/0 3] Workshop on Water Governance Benchmarking , Ain Sukhna, Egypt. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/03/01 - 2009/03/02] Workshop on surveillance of water-related diseases under a changing climate , Jerusalem, Israel Further

information on EMWIS website [2009/02/26 - 2009/02/27] Water Education Workshop , Delft, The Netherlands Further information on EMWIS website [2009/02/23 - 2009/02/23] " CRISE ALIMENTAIRE ET RAREFACTION DE LEAU : QUELS DEFIS POUR LA PROFESSION AGRICOLE AU MAGHREB ? " , Paris, France Further information on EMWIS website [2009/02/21 - 2009/02/24] The Third Grmena Conferences: Water - Resources Management + Environment and Geosciences+ Remote Sensing & GIS, Third International Conference and Exhibition, Cairo, Egypt Further information on EMWIS website [2009/02/2 0 - 2009/02/2 1] The Mediterranean Investment Forum Med Invest 200 9, Beyrouth, Lebanon. Further information on EMWIS website [2009/02/19 - 2009/02/20] Les Assises de la Coopration dcentralise franco-marocaine: Eau, Assainissement et Coopration Dcentralise" , Agadir, Morocco Further information on EMWIS website [2009/02/17 - 2009/02/19] RecShow '09: 2nd Middle East Water, Waste and Environmental Management Exhibition & Congress, Dead Sea, Jordan Further information on EMWIS website [2009/02/17 - 2009/02/20] Water Week 2009: "Tackling Global Water Challenges", Washington DC, US Further information on EMWIS website ===== BRIEF EMWIS SITE MAP ===== ABOUT EMWIS (Priorities , Activities , Objectives , Structure , Funding , Team) WATER in the EURO-MED PARTNERSHIP (MEDA programme , Key dates , European Neighbourhood Policy) EMWIS NATIONAL WEBSITES : Algeria , Egypt , Israel , Jordan , Lebanon , Morocco , Palestine , Syria , Tunisia , Turkey , Cyprus , Malta , Spain , France , Italy , Portugal , Austria , Greece , Belgium , Luxembourg EMWIS WATER MULTILINGUAL THESAURUS (Available in English, French, Arabic, Spanish & Italian)- Water glossaries WATER PROJECTS DATABASE (MEDA-NIPs, MEDA-Water, LIFE, SMAP, INCO-MED, FP4-FP6, INTERREG, etc) DOCUMENTATION (EMWIS meetings , Documentary database , Funding for water , Key documents , Water Legislation) WHO DOES WHAT IN THE WATER SECTOR (By contacts, organisations & information sources) PARTNERS & SPONSORS (OIEau, CEDEX, SOGESID, EC , INBO , IME , GWP-Med , MED-EUWI , SMAP-RMSU) MEDA-WATER PROJECTS (ADIRA , EMPOWERS , EMWater , IrWA , ISIIMM , MEDAWARE , MEDROPLAN , MEDWA , Zer0-M) WATER INITIATIVES (MED-EUWI , WFD , INCO-MED , LIFE , MEDSTAT , SMAP , EXACT , UNEP-MAP , MSSD , HORIZON 2020 , Union for the Mediterranean) & Mediterranean Water Information Mechanism FORUM ; FAQ ; TOPICS (MedWIP , Water scarcity , groundwater , wastewater reuse , desalination , satellite data , etc) SEARCH EMWIS WEBSITE EMWIS SITEMAP ===== CONTACT US ===== - This is a monthly Flash provided by the EMWIS Technical Unit (sent to: 17157 subscribers), to which you can get a free subscription, click here for an open subscription. - The EMWIS Flash gives you regular and quality information on the water sector in the Euro-Mediterranean area. The main headlines are: Institutions, Documentation, Training, Research and Development, Data Administration. You will also find updates on: international events, relevant web sites, the Euro-Med Water programme of the European Commission, and much more ... - This Flash exists also in French and Arabic, you can view it and also the previous issues in our website . - This Flash is also yours, please give us your