

**CMU Council Meeting - Workshop on Water Management in the Mediterranean,
Valencia (Spain), 18-19 May 2007**

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CONCLUSIONS

1. The Workshop on “Water Management in the Mediterranean” was held in the city of Valencia, Spain, on 18 May 2007. It was organised by the Community of Mediterranean Universities Council (CMU), in close collaboration with the International Relations Department of the University of Valencia and Mr. Vicente Andreu, played a central role in its preparation and execution. The workshop was supported financially by the CMU and the University of Valencia.
2. The first objective of the workshop was to give an overview on the water management policies and tools in the Mediterranean and discuss how Mediterranean countries are facing the problem of water shortage, as well as their strategies to reach a sustainable development of this rare resource.
3. It was also an objective of the workshop to present regional initiatives working on water resources management issues and seek for the possible collaboration and synergy between them and the different countries in order to learn from success stories of each other.
4. The workshop was attended by representatives from twelve Mediterranean countries, namely: Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Turkey. The workshop was chaired by Prof. Mohamed El-Muntasser (International Energy Foundation & the University of Al Fateh, Libya) and Dr. Jauad El Kharraz (EMWIS: Euro Mediterranean Water Information System, France).
5. Presentations were delivered in the workshop: namely, “EMWIS & Mediterranean Water Information Partnership” by Dr. Jauad El Kharraz, “Sustainable Water Development in the Eastern Mediterranean” by Dr. Eilon M. Adar (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research, Israel), “Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations – MENBO” by Ms. Maria Serneguet (MENBO, Spain), “Water shortage in the Mediterranean” by Prof. Mohamed El-Muntasser, and “The use of remote sensing techniques for better water resources management in the Mediterranean” by Prof. José Antonio Sobrino (University of Valencia, Spain).
6. The presentations covered several activities related to Mediterranean water management good practices, such as: the experience of the Euro Mediterranean Water Information System (EMWIS), the Mediterranean Water partnership (MedWIP) which will contribute to a better water management in the Mediterranean through reinforcing water information systems in the countries, helping them to achieve Millennium development goals (MDGs) related to water and sanitation, and following the Mediterranean strategy of sustainable development using common indicators.
7. Mediterranean countries insist in some water management specific themes of priority (extreme phenomenon: floods and water scarcity, the use of non

conventional water resources: desalination and wastewater reuse, access to water and sanitation, and participatory approach in the integrated water resources management).

8. The experience of MENBO (Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations) which gathers the Mediterranean basin agencies that collaborate under its umbrella to share experience and know how. Many projects were the fruits of such collaboration, especially projects related to transboundary water resources management. MENBO is also leading the European Water Initiative/EU Water Framework directive Joint Process working group on water and scarcity together with EMWIS.
9. Remote sensing can be a powerful tool and a very important decision support tool to water management issues. Remote sensing applications cover the use of water in agriculture; assist farmers for a better water management, through giving them indicators provided by satellite data. Actually some countries use already efficiently remote sensing alert systems, based on satellite information that can be given to the farmers in instantaneous time by means of mobile phone. It gives also information of great relevance for the hydrology and water cycle. It helps also to get land cover maps, and give indicators for sustainable development such as the NDVI (Normalised difference vegetation index), etc.
10. Some water management practices in the Mediterranean have been presented, especially those related to efforts done to fight against desertification and water scarcity, as well as sharing water aquifers through bilateral agreements.
11. Non conventional water resources are used to integrate the water management issues in the cities and the urban areas. Countries are making efforts to use desalinations plants, and treat waste water.
12. The issues of coupling energy and water projects for sustainable development of the southern Mediterranean countries can be of great interest for the Mediterranean countries. Water from the North side of the Mediterranean dumped in the Mediterranean Sea from rivers could be transported to the south and energy from the south to the north through trans-pipelines. This can reduce the cost of such projects. A proposition on the possibility that the CMU can assist in developing a feasibility study on that issue was suggested.
13. The workshop participants expressed their agreement about the importance of sharing good practices and know how information. They insisted as well on the importance of sharing and providing water information for the benefit of national water users as well as international ones.
14. Integrated water resources management is an essential issue, and it is very importance to involve all the water actors (participatory approach) and taking into account environmental, economic and social impacts.
15. Finally, all the participants expressed their hopes that water can be a catalyst for regional cooperation, stability and a sustainable development and peace.