

<p style="text-align: center;">SEMIDE Système Euro-Méditerranéen d'Information sur les savoir-faire dans le Domaine de l'Eau</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">EMWIS Euro-Mediterranean Information System on the know-how in the Water sector</p>
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Co-ordination Committee Meeting
Madrid (Spain) - 14 - 15 November 2001

CONCLUSIONS

The EMWIS Co-ordination Committee, gathering the National Focal Points (NFP) and the Technical Unit, met in Madrid (Spain), on 14 and 15 November 2001, under the chairmanship of Algeria. This meeting followed the Water General Directors meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (12-13 November).

The objectives of this second meeting of the NFP's representatives with the Technical Unit were, above all:

- To evaluate the EMWIS progress and the set-up of NFPs
- To plan the activities for 2002
- To better understand the expectations and concerns of the National Focal Points for the second stage of EMWIS (after 2002)
- To exchange good practices between the NFPs

A representative of the European Commission took part in this meeting that gathered the coordinators of 14 National Focal Points of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership: Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey.

Following the opening addresses of Spain and Algeria, the first half day was devoted to the evaluation of EMWIS progress, to the planning of activities for 2002, and a review on the set-up of the thematic directory.

The Co-ordination Committee members reaffirmed their commitment as for the distributed feature of the System and thus with the full responsibility of the NFP with regard to the information provided on the Internet. It has also been noticed that the members of the Technical Unit are fully available to help NFP staff in setting up their server (e.g. data collection for the thematic directory).

The following seminars will be held in 2002:

- Two training seminars for the representatives of the NFP will be organized in Europe, one for the IT experts (in April) and one for the data managers (in June)
- Three local or regional seminars will be organized to promote the system. The following countries expressed their interest in holding such events: Italy (April), Jordan (March), Morocco (June or November) and Tunisia (2nd semester).

Following the decision of the Steering Committee (Cyprus, July 2001) of requiring the Technical Unit to register two uniform domain names for each NFP, the Coordination Committee decided that the following domain names will be registered by the Technical Unit for each country: www.emwis_xx.org and www.semide_xx.org (xx = country code).

The afternoon was devoted to the presentation of and discussions on a Charter of Quality of services for the NFPs and on the detailed work-programme of EMWIS for its second stage. For the Charter, it was decided that this should be a synthesis document. Un draft document will be

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circulated and discussed by email in order to be finalised at the next meeting of NFPs data managers.

The work programme for 2002-2005 is based on the resolutions adopted at the General Directors meeting held the 12 and 13 November 2001. Two main comments have been made:

- Adding Arabic as a language to access and search the information provided by EMWIS websites
- The European Commission will provide the tools necessary for the management of the MEDA-Water call for proposals including its own web site (publication of documents, questions and answers, support to search partners, etc.).

The last session was devoted to the exchange of good practices between NFPs:

- Organization and funding of NFPs
- Organization of promotional seminars with National co-funding
- Availability of water related legislation for each country. It has been noticed that usually translations of these texts are unofficial and that this should be clearly stated when such texts are published
- Possibility to include complementary funding such as sponsoring, subscription for specific user groups: according to the NFPs' representatives such an approach should be the result of a National decision. Indeed, most of the organizations managing the NFPs cannot be involved in merchant activities or being directly linked to the private sector.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Coordination Committee would take place during the last quarter of 2002 under the Chairmanship of Morocco.

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