

**MEDITERRANEAN COMPONENT
OF THE EU WATER INITIATIVE**

**MED EUWI / WFD JOINT PROCESS
Last developments**

(v. 15 June 2005)

BACKGROUND

The Joint Process between the Water Framework Directive and the EU Water Initiative is aimed at making Mediterranean partners benefit from the principles, approach and experience of the Water Framework Directive, to improve integrated water resources management in the region. The global strategy of the Joint Process was endorsed by EU Water Directors in December 2004 as well as the orientations for implementing the Mediterranean Joint Process.

The Med JP was outlined in September 2004, in Brindisi, Italy, during a workshop on Mediterranean river basins and first developments started in 2005. The Med JP was presented during the 4th Working group meeting of the MED-EUWI.

At technical level, the Med Joint Process is aimed at fostering exchanges on thematic issues and at producing specific recommendations related to these themes.

3 Working groups are set up on 3 specific issues selected in Brindisi.

ORGANISATION of Med WGs	WATER SCARCITY	GROUNDWATER	AGRICULTURE / RURAL DEVELOPMENT
WG leaders	France / Commission DGENV	Greece / Commission DGENV	Portugal / Commission JRC
Members	EU representatives from IT, CY, stakeholders, non-EU representatives from TUN, EGY,	EU representatives from SP, CY, MAL, F; stakeholders; non EU representatives from MO, <u>EG</u> , ALG, ALB, BUL, TUR	EU representatives from P, ; stakeholders; non EU representatives from TUR, TUN
Linkages with the Common Implementation Strategy of the WFD	2 Med focal points (Egypt, Tunisia) involved in the EU drafting group	The Med WG is the 5 th sub WG of the WG C on Groundwater; Participation of EU experts involved in the sub-WG C	JRC is involved in the EU Steering group on Agriculture
Meetings	<i>EU WG:</i> - 10 February 2005, Rome - 11 May 2005, Cyprus - 13 Sept. 2005, Paris	<i>Med WG:</i> - 24 May 2005, Marrakech <i>EU WG:</i> - 28 January 2005, Brussels - 7 June 2005, Brussels - 6 October 2005, Brussels	<i>Med WG:</i> - Oct. 2005, Portugal <i>EU WG:</i> - April 2005, Brussels -

PROGRESS

The Med-JP has defined two levels of actions and is based on the running of 3 working groups¹.

1. Technical level

a. Improve access on information

Action: Identification of a focal point: EMWIS

What is already carried out?

From its mandate, EMWIS is providing information on water management in the Mediterranean. Information on EUWI is also available as well as on the WFD.

b. Disseminate best practices

Action:

1. Set up 3 working groups
2. Produce specific recommendations
3. Develop cross-fertilisation thanks to an annual meeting

What is already carried out?

MANDATE of the WGs	WATER SCARCITY	GROUNDWATER	AGRICULTURE / RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Create an Electronic Forum for networking	current discussion with EMWIS	current discussion with EMWIS	
Draft a position paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contents of the EU document agreed - First MED elements provided to the EU drafting group on Water Scarcity <p><i>Timeframe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - first draft ready for September 2005; first version to be presented in Nov. 2006 to EU Water Directors + MED WD? - Final version: June 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contents of the Med document disseminated and discussed in the 1st WG meeting - discussion with the WGC in January and June - First elements already drafted (Monitoring) <p><i>Timeframe:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - first draft ready for Oct. 2005; first version to be presented in Nov. 2006 to EU Water Directors + MED WD? - Final version: June 2006 	
Organise further exchanges of knowledge	In the framework of the CIS and the ARID cluster (Research project), conference held in Cyprus, 12-13 May 2005, for EU experts where Med focal points where invited	Meeting of the WG held in the margins of the MENBO general assembly, during the International technical seminar on IWRM in the Mediterranean region and North Africa, Marrakech, 23-26 May 2005	
Set up cases for applied research			Call for tender launched for pilot studies in Italy, Spain, Bulgaria, Turkey

¹ See annex 3 of the document: Discussion document on the Joint Water Framework Directive / EU Water Initiative Process - Detailed Strategy & 2005 work programme, COM (DGENV), 18 November 2004 - 23 p presented during the EU WD meeting in Amsterdam, 2004.

2. Political level

First discussion with Med Water directors will take place in Athens, 23 June 2005, in the framework of EMWIS meeting.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

The process of Association agreements between EU and Mediterranean southern countries covers a wide range of cooperation activities in economic and social areas as well as in justice and home affairs and environment. The Association agreement aim at gradual approximation of policy, legislation and practice throughout the region and are therefore instrumental for raising profile of the Environment in the region. National Action Plans that are being prepared in the context of the European Neighbourhood policy, will include specific activities including the support for developing and implementing environmental legislation.

Environmental sub-committees in charge of implementing the Action Plans have already identified specific issues for cooperation with EU. For example, for water-related issues, in Morocco, groundwater management was highlighted as a major problem; in Tunisia, saline intrusion in groundwater was also identified as an issue of interest.

In this framework, the Med Joint Process can play a role in analysing the Mediterranean specificities vis-à-vis the implementation of the WFD and in identifying the potential difficulties of its application in neighbouring countries. The requirements for approximation in the Mediterranean countries in the field of water could be identified through the recommendations that will be produced by the Working groups of the Med Joint Process.

Beyond the analysis of requirements for approximation, specific instruments will be devoted to support the convergence of environmental legislation. From 2007 onwards, it will differ according to the status of the countries: accession² or neighbouring³ ones. For the former, pre-adhesion instrument will be available and for the latter, European Neighbourhood Partnership Instrument.

² Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYROM, Romania, Serbia-Montenegro, Turkey

³ Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia

ANNEX 1

List of members of Working Groups

Med Joint Process WATER SCARCITY WORKING GROUP (Med WS WG)

NAME	SURNAME	INSTITUTION/COUNTRY	e-mail	
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**	Med focal points of the Med WS WG in the EU drafting group			
***	Leader and co-leader of the Med WS WG			

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* leaders of the WG

Med Joint Process AGRIULTURE Working group (Med AGRI WG): LINKING RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND WATER MANAGEMENT

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