



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Secretariat**

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Conference Services

Please find attached the presentation by Mr. Pierre Hecq, European Commission delivered to the Plenary Session 1 - Fostering water co-operation: international and regional experiences, Second Preparatory Conference to the 15th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, Zaragoza, Spain, 12 - 13 March 2007.

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EUWI
EU WATER INITIATIVE

The European Union Water Initiative EECCA component

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1

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EUWI – Water for life

- ▶ Initiative by all EU MS and EC to:
 - Contribute to the achievement of MDGs and WSSD targets
 - ☞ Water Supply and Sanitation
 - ☞ Integrated Water Resources Management
- ▶ Balance between water needs for :
 - ☞ Human
 - ☞ environment

While contributing to halting or reversing the loss of environmental resources

2

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Approach

Actions to meet the water and sanitation MDGs

- ◆ **Partnership approach** – involve all parties concerned through multistakeholder process (EU, partner countries, international organisations, NGOs, private sector, IFIs and other donors etc)
- ◆ **Modular approach**
 - Regional components (Africa, EECCA, Mediterranean, Latin America)
 - Horizontal components (Finance, Research, Monitoring)

3

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EUWI Objectives

- ◆ Reinforce political commitment to action;
- ◆ Promote better water governance arrangements;
- ◆ **Improve coordination and cooperation;**
 - Sector-wide approach
 - Reinforce partnerships for action
- ◆ Encourage **regional and sub-regional cooperation** on water management issues;
- ◆ Catalyse additional funding.

4

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EECCA Component

(Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia)

- ◆ 12 EECCA Countries
- ◆ 2 focus areas: WSS & IWRM
- ◆ Includes TB RBM & regional seas
- ◆ Financing dimension
- ◆ Work programme
 - 8 objectives
 - National Policy dialogues
 - Policy packages

5

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Cooperation with UNECE and OECD-EAP TF

- ↔ Reinforce synergies between WSS & IWRM
- ↔ Improve the coherence of EU cooperation / efforts on water in the region
- ↔ Towards a one-stop-shop for assistance on water in EECCA

6

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What's in for partners?

- ◆ For EECCA countries:
 - Access to practitioners in the EU (including new MS)
 - Access to best practices from others in the EECCA region
 - Access to useful tools – for environmental financing, quality standard setting, tariff policies, monitoring etc...

7

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What's in for partners?

- ◆ For EU MS and International organisations:
 - Access to key stakeholders in the EECCA region
 - Increased understanding of the needs and priorities of the EECCA countries
 - Improved IFI and donor coordination in the EECCA region within the water sector

8

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Future steps

- ◆ Launch additional National Policy Dialogues in 2007
- covering WSS and Financing and IWRM
- ◆ Transfer of ownership to the EECCA countries
- ◆ Increase EU Member States involvement
- ◆ Develop cooperation with international organisations

9

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Thank you for your attention!

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10

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The National Policy Dialogue

Major instrument within the EUWI

- to achieve:
 - ☞ water-related MDGs & IWRM targets
 - ☞ 5 EUWI objectives
 - ☞ 8 EUWI-EECCA Work Programme objectives
- for the
 - ☞ Identification of Priority Actions
 - ☞ Establishment of a multi-stakeholder dialogue

11

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The National Policy Dialogue

Objectives

WSS, Financing and IWRM plans

- setting in place adequate legal and institutional frameworks;
- developing implementation capacity for operation and maintenance;
- looking into institutional structures and potential reforms;
- developing stakeholder consultation on water management issues;
- fostering decentralisation and the development of local responsibility and local government capacity;

Means

- Specially designed joint activities (IWRM + WSS + Finance)
- Dialogue
 - ☞ Public authorities
 - ☞ Representatives from civil society

12

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The National Policy Dialogue Outputs

Road map for achieving water-related MDGs & IWRM targets

- Implemented policy packages
 - Coherent mix of policy tools, such as new laws, regulations, standards, procedures, charges and concession arrangements)...
- ... each addressing a certain issue

13

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The National Policy Dialogue Activities

- Set up of a Steering Group
- Analyses
- Preparation of action plans for reform
- Experience sharing
- Training and capacity building
- Assistance in developing and implementing the policy tools

14

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Major achievements

- ◆ Work Programme for EUWI-EECCA Component approved in March 2005
- ◆ Country specific background papers exist
- ◆ Need to launch country dialogues agreed upon in November 2005
- ◆ Organisational set-up re-inforced
- ◆ Monitoring and reporting mechanism under preparation