

6th Liaison Bureau Meeting of MENBO 6 June 2007, Debrecen, Hungary

Present: Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison (President of INBO), Javier Ferrer Polo (Júcar River Basin Authority, Spain), Fernando Octavio (Ministry of Environment, Spain), Justo Mora (Tajo River Basin Authority, Spain), Elisa Vargas (Ministry of Environment, Spain), Georgios Loucaides (Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Cyprus), Ramiro Martínez Costa (Permanent Technical Secretariat MENBO), Maria Serneguet i Belda (Permanent Technical Secretariat MENBO), Katharina Kober (Permanent Technical Secretariat MENBO)

1) Opening of the Bureau and welcome.

Welcome words of the President of INBO, Mrs. Madeleine Jouye de Grandmaison, and Mr. Javier Ferrer.

HE Mr. Mohamed Elyazghi, President of MENBO, and Mr. Teodoro Estrela Monreal, Permanent Technical Secretary of MENBO, send their best regards to the participants. Due to their busy agenda it was impossible for them to be present at the Liaison Bureau Meeting. Mr. Javier Ferrer Polo will steer the meeting in their place.

Introduction to the Permanent Technical Secretariat of MENBO.

2) New MENBO members.

At the next General Assembly the Turkish General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSI) and the Jordanian Ministry of Water and Irrigation (MWI) will be welcomed as new members of MENBO.

MENBO is constantly in contact with possible new partners in the Mediterranean.

Currently there are 28 members from 13 different Mediterranean countries.

3) 5th Liaison Bureau Meeting and 4th General Assembly of MENBO.

The 5th Liaison Bureau Meeting of MENBO was celebrated 17 of March 2006 in Mexico, where the dates for the 4th General Assembly of MENBO in Greece were fixed. The 4th General Assembly was celebrated successfully with the participation of 30 members from 8 Mediterranean countries.

4) Presentation of yearly accounts.

Details of revenues and expenses were given, which can be consulted by all MENBO members. Most important funding is received from the Spanish Government (nearly 80%).

There is no subscription fee paid by MENBO members.

5) Network progress.

Activities carried out by MENBO since the last General Assembly have been the following:

MENBO was present in the following events: Europe-INBO International Conference (France, Sep 2006), World Liaison Bureau Meeting of INBO (Hungary, Oct 2006), Euro-Mediterranean Water Directors Conference (Greece, Nov 2006), Water Demand Management, Progress and Policies regional Workshop (Spain, Mar 2007), Workshop "Integrated Water Resources Management" (Libya, Apr 2007).

MENBO was in charge of the elaboration and presentation of the Spanish National Report "Monitoring progress and promotion of water demand management policies" within the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development for Blue Plan.

Currently MENBO is participating in the following projects:

TWINBASIN Project (MENBO is member of the Steering Committee and leader of a Working group), MELIA Project (MENBO is participating in five working groups) and SPI-Water Project (MENBO is member of the Steering Committee and leader of a Work-package).

The Network is also involved in the new European project proposals Mirage and FRAFF.

6) Call for the 5th General Assembly of MENBO

The 5th General Assembly of MENBO will be celebrated back-to-back with Europe-INBO in Italy in late autumn.

There, the new President of MENBO, probably Italian, will be elected.

7) Other topics: announcements, proposals.

The presentation given during this Liaison Bureau Meeting is available on the internet www.remoc.org

8) Discussion

Mr. Fernando Octavio stresses out the interest in the integration of some Portuguese River Basin Organisations in the network, even when they are not Mediterranean as they have great importance for the region. Contacts on the ministry and institutional level should be established.

Mr. Javier Ferrer agrees and underlines the intention of MENBO to establish these memberships. He asks Mr. Fernando Octavio for his help.

Mr. Fernando Octavio expressed his surprise about the fact that there are no Italian River Basin Organisations as members of MENBO.

Mr. Ramiro Martinez explained that MENBO due to restrictions in Spanish laws, is obliged to celebrate one General Assembly and besides a preparatory Liaison Bureau every year. Every two years a more relevant event, where the new president of MENBO is elected, is organised. The following year the General Assembly is organised as a smaller event.

Important General Assemblies of MENBO have been: Valencia 2003, Marrakech 2005, Italy 2007.

Lower importance had the General Assemblies in Istanbul 2004 and Athens 2006.

9) Closing of the Liaison Bureau