


INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT AND  
COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION  
General Assembly of MENBO  
7-9 October 2009, Beirut



## THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN WATER STRATEGY PREPARATORY PROCESS AND ORIENTATIONS

Ricardo Segura Graíño  
Assistant to the Deputy Water Director- Spain

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## UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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### ➤ *Main Objectives*

- ✓ Strengthen the political level of partnership
- ✓ Enhance the usefulness and visibility that regional cooperation has for the citizens of the region
- ✓ Develop an institutional framework to make possible a balanced distribution of responsibilities and powers of the members
- ✓ Implementation of the six regional cooperation projects that were approved in Paris (July, 2008):
  - Mediterranean Solar Plan
  - Euromed Initiative for business development
  - Terrestrial and maritime motorway
  - Mediterranean De-pollution
  - Euromed Initiative for civil protection
  - Piran (Slovenia) Euromed University

## UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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### ➤ *Organization and composition*

**Co-Presidency:** FR and EG

**Core group**

**FR** (Co-Presidency UPM)  
**European Presidency** (currently SE)  
**ES** (Secretariat country: offices in Barcelona)  
**CE**  
**General Secretariat**



The Heads of State present at the Paris Summit for the Mediterranean (13 July 2008) decided to create a Secretariat for UfM. **Statutes being developed**

## UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN: Barcelona Secretariat

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### ➤ *Secretariat's Building*



(Pedralbes Palace XVII Century)



## STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



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**22 December 2008, Jordan**  
**Declaration process: Union for the Mediterranean:**  
**Declaration of the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water**



Ministers agree to define the Long Term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (SWM)

## STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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### ➤ *Principles of the Strategy*

- i. Tackle problems that go beyond the means of any one country(..), in particular to the impact of climate change and environmental needs.
- ii. Build on integrated approaches....
- iii. Conservation of water quality including the prevention of further deterioration of water resources and the balance between the quantity of water used and the quantity of water available including mitigating and preventing the consequence of drought and water scarcity
- iv. Include both measurable qualitative and quantitative objectives (..)
- v. Consider the most appropriate instruments to reach the objectives of the Strategy, (..) keeping in mind the differences in national situations...
- vi. Develop and exploit for the benefit of all, scientific, technical and technological tools in these fields.

## STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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### ➤ *The Strategy should address*

- a) “**Advancing on effective water governance** for integrated water resources management and water supply and sanitation; awareness, technical and capacity building and coordination within administrative units among stakeholders”
- b) “Addressing **water and climate change**, through adaptation measures together with mitigation with emphasis, inter alia, on management of **droughts and floods**, mitigation of water scarcity and combat desertification”
- c) “Optimizing **water financing**, water valuation and appropriate instruments, with emphasis on innovate mechanisms”
- d) “**Water demand management** and efficiency, and **non-conventional water resources**”.

## STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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### *Ministers agree to entrust the Euro-Med Water Expert Group (WEG)*

#### ✓ Role

- Provide technical input to water related initiatives and processes in the region, including recommendations to enhance effectiveness coordination and complementary for all key water related activities.

#### ✓ Structure

- Co-chaired according to the presidency rules of the UfM.
- Stakeholder (public and private organization, local authorities, etc..) from water management could assist as observers.

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### *The state of the works on the Mediterranean Water Strategy:*

In Jordan Ministerial Conference (December 2008) a Draft Terms of Reference of the SWM was presented by Greece and Spain based on the following proposals:

- A Technical Drafting Group will elaborate the draft SWM text under the WEG political guidance
- Validation of the text would be through WEG meetings

## STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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### *Water Expert Group. First Meeting. Athens, Greece, 7- 8 September 2009*

#### **MAIN CONCLUSIONS**

- Elaborate the draft SWM according to the mandate given to the Water Experts Group by the Jordan Ministerial Declaration, in line with the Terms of Reference presented by Greece and Spain.
- The list of projects is open ([www.ufm-water.net](http://www.ufm-water.net))
- Set up a Technical Drafting Group composed of **Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Spain, Syria, Croatia, the European Commission and the League of Arab States**
- **Spain** is appointed chair the Technical Drafting Group as hosting country of the next Ministerial Conference

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*Water Expert Group. First Meeting. Athens, Greece, 7- 8 September 2009*

### MAIN CONCLUSIONS II: Key events

- The importance of a joint Egyptian-Dutch Conference “Towards the new Long Term Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean” . (Celebration of WEG 2 on November 4).
- The importance of the Conference on the Role of the Local Authorities in the Water UfM Process (Lyon, France, 23 - 24 November 2009).
- Between others, no official meetings, figures the organization in **Beirut, Lebanon, on the 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2009** of a *regional seminar on river basin management and WFD implementation in the Euro-Mediterranean region*.

**NOW!!**

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At the moment, a proposal of “**guidelines for drafters**” and “**working plan**” is been elaborated, to be discussed by all members of the TDG, in order to ensure having an agreed SWM for the 2010 Ministerial Conference in Barcelona.

A very **rough draft of the SWM** (5 pages-long) is going to be distributed in the following days and discussed within the TDG (**it will be a very opened document to suggestions and changes, and all TDG members are expected to collaborate**).

## STRATEGY FOR WATER IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

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Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water  
*Adoption of the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean*

Barcelona, Spain

12-14 April 2010

<http://www.bcneuromed.es/>

**Thank you for your attention!**

