



The governance of sustainable development with the New Member States of the European Union

WATER AS A NEW VECTOR FOR SOLIDARITY CHALLENGES Suggestions for France's 2008 EU presidency

**Thursday 15 & Friday 16 November 2007
Annemasse - Genève**

In November 2006, Mouvement Vraiment Durable launched a series of annual symposiums on **The governance of sustainable development with the New Member States of the European Union** and the first such event focused on sustainable development as a vector for solidarity.

Participants and delegates to the 2006 symposium endorsed a set of proposals now serving as a platform known as the **Annemasse Declaration**. This document sets the framework for any future steps to be made on the way to EU co-operation for sustainable development. In particular, stakeholders call for a co-operation network that would act as a forum where best practice could be shared between them.

Based on the Declaration, Mouvement Vraiment Durable convenes all stakeholders in EU sustainable development co-operation for annual symposiums where they can make a number of proposals on a chosen theme. The issues for discussion are all in line with the Lisbon Strategy for enhanced EU competitiveness.

The 2007 symposium will focus on the potential for solidarity in the area of water resources. The forum will take on a special dimension as Slovenia is about to take over the rotating EU chair from January 2008, to be followed by France and the Czech Republic.

The European framework

Over the past two decades, the 12 new EU member States (NMSs) have undertaken radical reforms of their economic, social and political systems and have furthered more active involvement of the population in public affairs, as they developed fresh statutory books and implemented new governance networks.

As they joined, these countries brought to the Union an exceptional environmental wealth, particularly in terms of biodiversity, along with very favourable conditions, including lower degrees of urbanisation and more sustainable consumer lifestyles.

These changes pave the way for the promotion of well-shared sustainable development on a European and a global scale.

And yet, since these countries began to join in 2004, awareness of EU sustainable development policies remains poor among both their elected representatives and their populations. The upshot is a deficit in political will and commitment with regard to sustainable responses to these countries' local, regional and national concerns. Moreover, NMS sustainable development policies fail short of consistency, regardless of the framework provided in the Strategy for Sustainable Development which the EU adopted at the Göteborg summit. Also, a sustained pace of development and the substantial subsidies NMSs benefit from often favour the economic 'pillar' of sustainable development, to the detriment of environmental and welfare issues which cannot be disassociated from economics. One of the reasons is that 'older' member States are often hardly aware of the environmental riches featured by NMSs. And yet the challenge of taking in duties to society and the environment is even more pressing as ecological issues become more pervasive.

France has a time-honoured tradition in cultural co-operation, but today is less actively involved in another essential aspect of European-wide co-operation, viz., sustainable development. And yet France has a wealth of experience to share in other areas such as agriculture, management of water resources, research and interactions between culture and nature.

Sustainable development represents a fresh area for co-operation in its own right. Indeed, environmental solidarity minimises past disagreements and makes it possible to overcome old lines of divide (since air, water, etc., are common goods which must be preserved short of which access to rare resources may trigger conflicts).

As for EU integration policies (and the Lisbon Strategy in particular), they focus on economic growth and competitiveness which on occasion act as serious rivals for social and environmental objectives.

New EU member States are an opportunity to develop a new type of Europe-wide co-operation focusing on the governance of sustainable development. Such co-operation can be a source of two-way exchange and partnerships between 'older' and new member States. Cette coopération peut être source d'échange et de partenariats réciproques, aussi bien le sens anciens-nouveaux que dans l'autre.

Against this background, the rationale behind the symposiums on the Governance of sustainable development with new EU member States is to identify relevant practical steps and to implement a co-operation network in order to sustain a cross-Europe dialogue based on best practice exchange and the sharing of expertise.

At issue: Water resources

Water resource management has been a major concern for the EU since the mid-1970s. Initially, the focus of concern was on the preservation of man-used water resources. Twenty years on, EU directives required member States to implement domestic waste water collection and treatment facilities, or to reduce pollution through agricultural nitrate-based fertilisers. This was also when sustainable development really became another major political issue.

Today, the guidelines for a common water policy have been set out in a specific EU framework directive (dated 23 October 2000). The directive goes some way towards streamlining EU water policies, including prevention and mitigation of pollution, promotion of sustainable water usage, preserving its natural environment, improving water-related eco-systems and mitigating the impact of extreme climate events. The directive also requires systematic public information and involvement for the duration of its own implementation. Under the framework directive, member States are required to achieve adequate standards for water quality by 2015.

At a time when the United Nations has designated 2008 as 'International Sanitation Year' and when France is to take over the rotating EU presidency in late 2008, water resource governance is taking further prominence as a major challenge for Europe. European-wide co-operation is the basis for the good governance which, in turn, will make it possible to achieve the objectives set out in the EU framework directive.

Objectives

Bring together all stakeholders: senior government officials from various countries and from national and European institutions, representatives from NGO networks, scientific experts, business operators and local elected representatives.

Identify existing European-wide multi- and bi-lateral co-operation schemes involving sustainable development, as well as any best practices already in operation.

Assess any barriers and challenges which various NMS stakeholders find standing the way of EU co-operation.

Analyse any innovative steps the various stakeholders have taken to change time-honoured modes of governance and public involvement with regard to Europe-wide sustainable development issues.

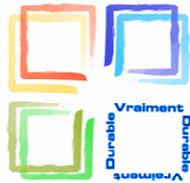
Launch a cross-Europe dialogue over the type of contribution which every type of stakeholder could make to a co-operation network dedicated to the governance of sustainable development.

Participating countries

Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France,
Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania,
Malta, Poland, Romania,
Slovakia, Slovenia,

Switzerland, European Union,

Symposium organizers:



With support from:

The French Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Planning and Development,
The Municipality of Annemasse,
The Rhône-Alpes Region, MIPRA,
Suez, EDF, ADEME, Eco Emballage, Séché Environnement

THURSDAY 15 NOVEMBER

9.00 – 9.30	Welcome – Bio coffee
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9.30 - 10.00 **Symposium opening**

Mrs **Hélène BLANCHARD**, vice-presidente, Rhône-Alpes region, delegate, environment and risk management division, France

Mr **Robert BORREL**, Mayor, Annemasse, France

Mrs **Bettina LAVILLE**, member, Conseil d'Etat ; chair, Mouvement Vraiment Durable, France

10.00 - 12.00 **Session 1 Tacking stock**

A year after the first symposium, this session will identify the major challenges lying ahead for EU co-operation in the years to come, outlining some practical steps to meet them. The idea is to generate effective momentum behind co-operation, based on down-to-earth view-sharing.

Focus on the challenges for the forthcoming EU chairs

As Slovenia and France prepare to take their successive turns in the EU chair in 2008, the political underpinnings of enhanced co-operation will be discussed, both from the chairs' and from other stakeholders' perspectives.

Current and desirable types of co-operation

Local authorities, NGOs and business will outline respective achievements and challenges in their co-operation efforts with new member States, with a special focus on water resources.

Formalising co-operation through networking

Mouvement Vraiment Durable will outline its own proposals for practical projects: launch of a European Website for best-practice sharing; fact-finding tours with experts; twinning schemes for EU regions; corporate sponsorships; common awareness and education campaigns on sustainable consumption.

Moderator:

Mrs **Bettina LAVILLE**, chair of Mouvement Vraiment Durable, member of State Council, France

Speakers:

Mrs **Lenka CEROVSKA**, water preservation division, Environment Ministry, Czech Republic

Mr **Marc CALORI**, EU affairs unit, international affairs department, MEDAD, France

Mrs **Dorina CRISTOVEANU**, director, sustainable development directorate, National Environmental Protection Agency, Romania

Mrs **Lubka KATCHAKOVA**, deputy minister, Environment and Water Management Ministry, Republic of Bulgaria

Mr **Juraj KOHUTIAR**, co-author, *Water for the Recovery of the Climate - New Water Paradigm*, Slovakia

Hon. **Janez PODOBNIK**, Environment and Planning Minister, Republic of Slovenia (tbc)

Mrs **Petra PTACKOVA**, head, EU co-operation division, Ministry of the Environment, Czech Republic

Mr **Eugeniusz PLUCZYNSKI**, region geologist, environment department, Marshall office of Wielkopolska region, Poland

Mr **Laurent STEFANINI**, ambassador of France, delegate to the environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France

12.00 - 14.00	Lunch
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14.00 – 18.00 **Session 2 Panel discussion**

14.00 – 16.00 **Panel discussion 1**

Implementing the EU Directives for a common water policy: the shared challenges of quality standards, resource preservation and sanitation

The rationale behind the framework set out in the EU Directive (dated 23 October 2000) is to streamline European water policies ahead of the 2015 deadline for adequate water quality standards. This calls for steps towards integrated and sustainable resource management and more efficient irrigation and flood prevention, as well as for preservation-friendly water charge policies. On top of this, the citizenry must be involved all the way. Implementing the directive is a major collective challenge calling for major changes.

In this perspective, it is essential to determine the roles which all stakeholders - public, private and civil society - can play in the co-operation schemes that may be laid out. Such schemes will take on a special dimension ahead of the 'International Sanitation Year 2008' campaign launched by the UN General Assembly, in order to promote the campaign and encourage action at all levels.

Moderator:

Mr **Jean-Luc TRANCART**, special advisor, Lyonnaise des Eaux, SUEZ, France

Speakers:

Mrs **Sandra BERTRAND**, research co-ordination and development officer, property division, CNAM Pays de la Loire, France

Mr **Zdzislaw CICHOCKI**, division chief, Ecological Foundation of Spatial Planning, Institute of the Environment Protection, Poland

Mrs **Adina FLOREA**, head, water quality division, Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development, Romania

Mr **Raymond JOST**, president, Europe Water Solidarity, France

Mr **Viktor KLIMENT**, water protection division, Environment Ministry, Czech Republic

Mr **John MANGION**, head, Malta Water Resources Authority, Malta (tbc)

Mr **Daniel VILLESOT**, president, EUREAU (European Union of National Associations of Water Suppliers & Waste Water Services), France

Mr **Tomasz WALCZYKIEWICZ**, water management division, Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, Cracow branch, Poland

16.00 – 16.30	Coffee Break
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16.00 – 18.00 **Panel discussion 2**

Climate change and its impact on NMS water resources

In view of climate change and more recurrent extreme events, a major issue is how to implement policies for a global management of the impact of climate change on water resources. How do we deal with extreme climate events such as floods and droughts? The former are a danger to human settlements while the latter turn water into a scarce resource. What are the implications for manufacturing, tourism, agriculture and the natural environment? What are the adequate policy responses?

Moderator:

Mr **Pierre MAGNETO**, journalist of Naja Presse, Le journal du Développement Durable

Speakers:

Mrs **Marianna BIRO**, scientific resourcer, the Institute of Ecology and Botany, Academy of Sciences, Hungary

Mrs **Snejana DAKOVA**, head, surface and ground waters, hydrology division, National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology, Academy of Science, Bulgaria

Mrs **Andreea GALIE**, lecturer, Technical University of Civil Engineering, Bucharest, Water Works Chair, Romania

Mrs **Oiga KOVALENKO**, head, hydrology department, Estonian Meteorological & Hydrological Institute, Estonia

Mr **Jaroslaw J.NAPIORKOWSKI**, head, water resources department, Institute of Geophysics, Academy of Science, Poland

Mr **Jean-Paul RIVAUD**, international affairs unit, water directorate, MEDAD, France

Mrs **Sandrine ROUSSEAUX**, president, Climater, France

Mr **Albert-Louis ROUX**, president, Water academy, France

19.00 **Buffet dinner**

Hosted by the French Permanent Representation at the UN Office in Geneva and other Swiss based international institutions. (*Invitations only – RSVP*)

FRIDAY 16 NOVEMBER

9.00 – 9.30	Welcome – Bio coffee
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9.30 – 13.00	Panel discussions (continued)
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9.30 – 11.00 Panel discussion 3

Co-operating in favour of sustainable consumption – focus on the challenges for agriculture

Water consumption varies considerably across economic sectors and regions, depending on natural conditions, population and economic patterns. While highlighting gaps in infrastructures, resource uses and waste water treatment across member States, the EU directive sets a framework for optimal water management by 2015.

In a sustainable consumption perspective, what can be done to further sustainable management of water resources? What can we do to prevent waste: enhanced awareness, education, legislation? Particularly, what practical EU-wide steps in water management can take into account the specificities and priorities of NMS agricultural development? How do we arrive at a better, more rational management of water resources and assess the impact of their use?

Speakers:

Mr **Jean-Luc BIDAL**, vice-president, FNSEA (France's dominant agricultural union), France

Mr **Romualdus JUKNYS**, chair, environmental sciences, Kaunas Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Mrs **Bojana KROFLIC**, researcher officer, LIMNOS d.o.o., Slovenia

Mr **Seweryn KUKULA**, director, The Institute of Soil Science and Plant Cultivation, Poland (tbc)

Mrs **Krustina MANDOVA**, president, ETP Foundation Sustainable Development Project, Bulgaria

Mr **Michal MONIT**, researcher, Krakow Institute for Sustainable Energy, Poland

Mrs **Marina PINTAR**, agronomy department, Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Mr **Gérald SEMERDJIAN**, managing director, Société phocéenne des eaux (Marseille's area water utility), France

Mr **Norbert SOMOGYI**, scientific counsellor, Hungarian Embassy in Paris, Hungary

Mr **Charles STALDER**, head, Geneva area water, interior, Agriculture and Environment Ministry, Switzerland (tbc)

11.00 – 11.30	Coffee Break
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11.30 – 13.00 Panel discussion 4

Proposals for water governance in new EU member countries

Since joining the EU, new member States must meet economic growth objectives that require them to put in place new governance systems for proper long-term management of natural resources.

Water is a critical issue in this respect: all public and private stakeholders must come together to promote and implement at all levels (international, national and local) a number of strategies, schemes and programmes for sustainable development which will take into account the diverse priorities and circumstances of each country.

A new type of water governance could take shape through existing partnerships and, more importantly, twinning schemes for transfer of know-how and support to NMS efforts when endorsing the existing body of EU environmental rules and regulations (the 'acquis communautaire'). Such twinning schemes should bring together local authorities, institutions and NGOs.

Speakers:

Mr **Arnaud COURTECUISSÉ**, Artois-Picardie water agency, France

Mr **Jean-François DONZIER**, permanent technical secretary, International Network of River Basin Agencies, managing director, International Water Office, France

Mr **Jerzy GRELA**, managing director, Regional Water Management Authority in Cracow, Poland

Mr **Guy OBERLIN**, chair, scientific council of Rhône-Méditerranée Basin Committee, France

Mr **Ludovic PIRON PALLIZER**, head of projects, sustainable development and the environment AMGVF (Association of French City Mayors), France

Mrs **Daniela RADULESCU**, national company "Apele Romane", Romania

Mr **Jean-Luc TRANCART**, special advisor, Lyonnaise des Eaux, SUEZ, France
Mr **Evaldas VEBRA**, chief desk officer, strategic planning division, Environment Ministry, Lithuania

13.00 – 15.00	Lunch & Keynote Address
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EU governance for sustainable territories by Mr **Gilles HERIARD DUBREUIL**, head, MUTADIS, France
Beyond the issue of water, ongoing trends in environment-related governance call for a re-assessment of the respective roles which EU, national, regional and local public authorities have to play. This is because on top of their time-honoured function as regulators, these bodies have another, decisive role to play as partners and supports in experimental governance schemes that bring together a variety of stakeholders, both public and private at the local, national and European levels.
Against this background, Mouvement Vraiment Durable and TRUSTNET, the European network, have together established a European Laboratory of Sustainable Territories. The rationale is to link together across Europe a variety of inter-territorial networks that experiment, share, consolidate and promote new modes of governance in areas such as sustainable management of natural resources, climate change or prevention of technological hazards.

15.00 – 16.30 **Session 3 Perspectives and symposium adjourns**

Co-operation and the forthcoming French EU presidency

Environmental protection will be one of the themes at the top of the agenda of French EU presidency. The international schedule for the latter half of 2008 includes the CCNUCC conference on post-Kyoto arrangements and an overhaul of the EU framework directive on integrated prevention and reduction of pollution, which will necessarily include water pollution issues. French involvement in meetings ahead of conferences of the Ramsar, Berne and Bonn international conventions is also on the agenda, along with implementation of an assessment programme for the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development and enactment of an action plan for drought and water shortage mitigation.

Usage is that successive rotating EU chairs make suitable co-operation arrangements between them, including immediate predecessors and successors. With France due to take over from Slovenia by mid-2008, bridges are being built between them right now. The momentum the two countries will generate will benefit to all types of co-operation and solidarity links with new member States, and all the more so as the Czech Republic will take over from France in early 2009. Environmental issues will be a major item on their agendas.

Moderator:

Mrs **Nathalie LHAYANI**, director of Euroactiv, France

Speakers:

Mrs **Myriam CONSTANTIN**, deputy, Mayor of Paris, water and sanitation division, France

Mr **Gilles HERIARD DUBREUIL**, head, Mutadis, France

Mrs **Catherine LALUMIERE**, former government minister, former vice-president of the European Parliament, president, Maison de l'Europe de Paris, France

Mrs **Bettina LAVILLE**, chair, Mouvement Vraiment Durable, member, State Council, France

Mr **Jean Baptiste MATTEI**, ambassador of France in Geneva, France

Mr **Thierry MERAUD**, head, East European affairs, international projects division, French Environmental and Energy Agency (ADEME), France

Mrs **Elisabeth LOUVET**, European bureau chief, MEDAD, France

Mr **Franc STEFFAN**, researcher with collaboration of Prof Jean-Marie Pelt; director, FEREEPAS; director, PE3D Conseil, France

17.00 – 17.30 **Symposium adjourns**

Mr **Robert BORREL**, Mayor, Annemasse, France

Mrs **Nathalie KOSCIUSKO-MORIZET**, Minister of State, French Ministry for Ecology and Sustainable Planning and Development (MEDAD), France (tbc)

Mrs **Bettina LAVILLE**, chair, Mouvement Vraiment Durable, member, State Council, France

Mr **Roger VIoud**, regional councillor, Rhône-Alpes, France

17.30	Closing cocktail reception
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