



# **Water demand management in the Mediterranean, progress and policies**

**ZARAGOZA, 19-21/03/2007**

## **General recommendations**

## Recommendations

Considering Recommendation 26 of the Action Plan adopted at the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Committed to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and the objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development,

Being of the opinion that the European Union Framework Directive on Water contains know-how in several fields which the EU neighbours might wish to share,

Considering that Water Demand Management is a resource and that it is an integral part of integrated water resources management,

Recalling that water demand in the Mediterranean is expected to increase by 50 km<sup>3</sup>/year by 2025 to reach 332 km<sup>3</sup>/year, and that the various losses due to transport, leaking and the various uses could exceed 120 km<sup>3</sup>/year,

The participants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regional Workshop on Water and Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean, convened at Zaragoza, 19-21 March 2007, recommend to the national political authorities of the Mediterranean countries to:

- include, in accordance with the MSSD orientations, Water Demand Management, in the national priority strategies, to promote its implementation, on the one hand by setting annually on the basis of regional objectives, national objectives of efficiency and on the other – in order to achieve them – by mobilizing, with a concern for social equity, the various technical instruments and tools, but also those regulatory, normative, tariff, fiscal, contractual or market tools and instruments available to them; further, to coordinate its implementation, follow-up and evaluation in the various sectoral policies, especially in the fields of agriculture, energy, tourism, environment and land development,
- see to it that the problems connected with Water Demand Management are properly integrated within the global environmental problems, such as climate change, and biodiversity and ecosystem conservation,
- promote mobilization and responsabilization, at the various relevant territorial scales, connected with either the rural or the urban environment, of the various stakeholders concerned with Water Demand Management, public, academic, private or association-related by taking into consideration the particular role of women in this field; further to invite the partners, public – especially donors – and private to contribute to the resulting activities, operations and investments,
- take all necessary measures to raise the awareness of the public in terms of Water Demand Management – especially through environmental education activities, mainly by informing the public on the challenges involved and by identifying, implementing and making use of the relevant good practices, especially concerning the maintenance of water distribution systems, individual consumption of drinking water, rational use in agriculture as a function of the geographical context, and the protection of ecosystems,
- assess, every two years, progress accomplished in Water Demand Management and therefore reinforce the inclusion of Water Demand Management in the national information systems on water; further to document the various relevant indicators, mainly those adopted by the MSSD,

- reinforce the regional scientific and institutional cooperation to promote Water Demand Management and contribute to setting up a Mediterranean Water Observatory which would, on a continuous basis, compile data, information and good practices useful to Mediterranean stakeholders and decision makers.

Moreover, it is expected of the Blue Plan, in conjunction with its partners to:

- make a report, every two years, on progress accomplished in the Mediterranean in the field of Water Demand Management
- contribute to establishing a compendium of good practices in the field of Water Demand Management
- organize in 2012 the fourth regional workshop in Water Demand Management.

Done at Zaragoza, on 21 March 2007