



European Union Water Initiative Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EUWI EECCA) 15th Working Group meeting¹

Dates: 7 – 8 November 2011

Place: Hotel Capital Plaza, Bucharest², Romania

Languages: English and Russian with simultaneous translation

Meeting objectives and issues to be addressed

The EUWI EECCA is the regional component of the EU Water Initiative focused on Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The EUWI EECCA Working Group is the body which monitors and steers the work of EUWI EECCA. The Working Group meets once a year, to set priorities, review major EU and EECCA developments, share the experience of target countries and information about relevant projects, and to endorse the programme of work and budget for the next year.

The EUWI EECCA supports work of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the implementation of objectives contained in the Action Plans and of the EU-CA Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation which constitutes a framework for the implementation of the environment and water pillar of the EU Strategy for Central Asia.

The 15th meeting of the Working Group will bring together 40 participants including senior officials representing water and environmental authorities, experts from countries of Western, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia; as well as international organisations and donors. Organisation of the meeting is supported by the European Commission.

For more information, please contact

- Chair of the EUWI EECCA Working Group: Gheorghe Constantin, Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forestry
- OECD: Xavier Leflaive (xavier.leflaive@oecd.org), Tatiana Efimova (tatiana.efimova@oecd.org)
- UNECE: Gulnara Roll (gulnara.roll@unece.org)

¹ **Organization of the meeting is supported by the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the European Union**

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The meeting will be chaired by **Mr Gheorghe Constantin, Chair of the EUWI EECCA**

7 November 2011

12.30 – 13.00	Registration of participants	
13.00 – 13.30	<p>Introduction, objectives of the meeting and welcome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gheorghe Constantin, Chair of the EUWI EECCA and General Director of the Ministry of Environment of Romania • Caroline Milow, Political Advisor to EU Special Representative to Central Asia, EU External Action Service • Representative of the European Commission - tbc • Yesim Oruc, Resident Representative UNDP Romania • Xavier Leflaive, OECD • Gulnara Roll, UNECE 	
13.30– 14.30	<p>Session 1. Overview of the EUWI EECCA status</p> <p>Gheorghe Constantin, Chair of the EUWI EECCA <i>The Chair highlights key features of 2010-11 and reports on the discussion at the Astana Ministerial</i></p> <p><i>Tour de table</i></p> <p>Countries will be asked to present information on recent developments/achievements or key/emerging issues in their own country regarding water management and economic development (3 min for each country)</p>	
14.30 – 16.00	<p>Session 2. Implementation of National Policy Dialogues to support legal and institutional reform in the water sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional, national and local level experiences of IWRM principles implementation in countries of Central Asia – <i>Oytur Anarbekov, International Water Management Institute</i> • Activities of a national expert group to promote legal and institutional reform in water sector in Tajikistan: - <i>Ismat Eshmirzoev, Ministry of Water Resources and Land Reclamation of Tajikistan; Leif Iversen, international consultant</i> • Plans for the main directions of work under the NPD/IWRM in Kazakhstan – <i>Serik Ahmetov, Kazakhstan NPD/IWRM National Coordinator</i> • Setting targets and target dates under the Protocol on Water and Health in the Republic of Moldova - <i>Gheorghe ŞALARU, Minister of Environment</i> 	Oral reports



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPD/IWRM implementation in Georgia, including preparation of the National Water Code in Georgia - <i>George Dzamukashvili, NPD/IWRM National Expert, Georgia</i> <p>Q&A followed by discussion</p>	
16.00 – 16.30	Coffee break	
16.30 – 18.00	<p>Session 3. Implementation of National Policy Dialogues: over-fragmentation in the water supply and sanitation sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimisation of water systems in Ukraine: study on regionalisation of water services in the two regions – <i>Natalia Oliinik, Ministry of Regional development, construction, HME of Ukraine and Ashot Baghdasaryan, Project Manager, COWI</i> Regional water company: challenges and opportunities – <i>Vakhtang Razmadze, United Water Supply Company of Georgia, LLC</i> Small water utilities in Russia: how to make investments possible – <i>Sergey Sivaev, Municipal Economy Director, The Institute for Urban Economics</i> Regionalisation: lessons learnt, presentation of a case study in Romania- <i>Aurel Presura, Director, Regional Water Utility Company Constanta</i> EBRD experience in the development of the water services regionalization in Romania – <i>Dana Craciunescu, Principal Banker, EBRD Romania</i> <p>Q&A followed by discussion</p>	Oral reports

8 November 2011

09.30 – 11.00	<p>Session 4 Transboundary cooperation: a role of National Policy Dialogues in EECCA, challenges and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second assessment of transboundary rivers, lakes and groundwaters under the UNECE Water Convention and other UNECE transboundary water cooperation projects – <i>Gulnara Roll, UNECE</i> Transboundary water cooperation in Central Asia and activities of the Executive Committee of International Fund for Saving Aral Sea - <i>Murat Bekniyazov, Member and Representative from Republic of Kazakhstan at Executive Committee IFAS</i> Transboundary water cooperation projects with Afghanistan under the Tajikistan NPD/IWRM – <i>Bakhrom Gafarov, Tajikistan NPD National Expert</i> <p>Q&A followed by discussion</p>	Oral reports
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11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	
11.30 – 13.00	<p>Session 5. Use of economic instruments for better water allocation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlights of OECD’ countries experience – <i>Xavier Leflaive, OECD</i> • Basin management: role of economic instruments – <i>Pierre Strosser, ACTeon</i> • A case-study from Armenia Payment for Ecosystems Services pilot project – <i>Benyamin Zakaryan, Geoinfo, Armenia</i> • Water cooperation activities between Georgia and Azerbaijan in Kura River Basin - <i>George Dzumukashvili, NPD/IWRM National Expert, Georgia</i> <p>Q&A followed by discussion</p>	Oral reports
13.00 – 14.30	Lunch	
14.00-15.00	<p>Session 6. Integrating Water Uses or a Wise Water Resources Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and integration of hydropower into the overall water resource management policy in Romania - <i>Dragos Zachia, Deputy Director General HIDROELECTRICA</i> • Restructuring the Romanian water sector for a better integrated management- <i>Vasile Ciomos, President, Romanian Water Association</i> • National Approach on Water Management in Romania- integration of the environment and economy – <i>Ovidiu Gabor, Deputy General Director, National Administration Romanian Water</i> • Bridging people from different regions for new solutions in the water sector – <i>Paul Reiter, Executive Director, International Water Association</i> 	Oral reports
15.00-16.00	<p>Session 7. EUWI EECCA Working Group Programme of Work and Budget for 2012 and beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of EUWI EECCA activities- <i>Jesper Karup Pedersen, Technical Secretariat</i> • Programme of work and budget -<i>OECD, UNECE</i> <p>Q&A followed by discussion</p>	
16.00 – 16.15	Concluding session	