



Convention on the Protection and Use of  
Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes

Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment  
Twelfth meeting  
Geneva, 2–4 May 2011  
Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management  
Sixth meeting  
Geneva, 4–5 May 2011  
Item 7 of the provisional agenda  
Promotion of the Convention and the role of focal points

**The Sixth World Water Forum preparatory process**  
**Note prepared by the International Office for Water**

**Overview**

The 6th World Water Forum (WWF6) will be held in Marseille, France from 12 to 17 March 2012. Its ambition is to build on the extensive discussions around the issues, the problems and the recommendations of previous Fora and other international meetings in order to develop and to trigger the actual implementation of concrete solutions.

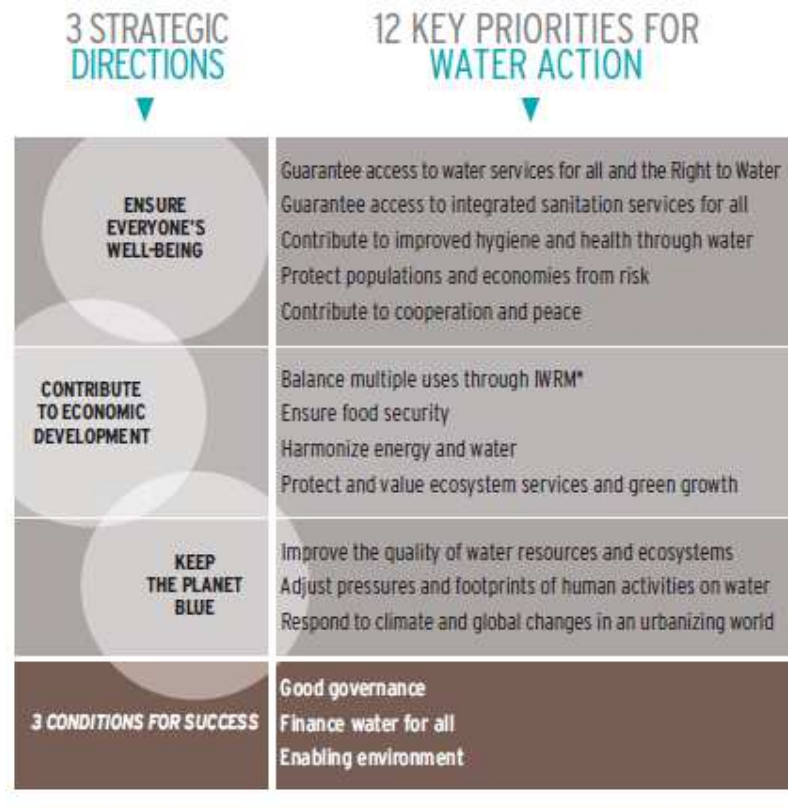
The preparatory process is based on the identification of SMART targets (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time-bound), as result of the Stakeholder consultation meeting held on 18-19 January 2011 in Paris, France. Until March 2012, the various groups will identify the “solutions” in a WISE process (Wide Involvement in Stakeholder Exchange) in order to meet the targets.

There are four preparatory processes driven in parallel:

- **The Political Process:** Governments, parliamentarians, local authorities develop political targets and solutions, e.g. cities commit to reduce the energy footprints of their water services under the Istanbul Water Consensus process.
- **The Thematic Process:** All stakeholders develop and facilitate the implementation of action targets mobilising a variety of organisations to reach the goals associated with each priority for action.
- **The Regional Process:** In the Americas, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Africa, and in sub-regions, develop and facilitate the implementation of targets referring to regional priorities, as identified in previous Fora.
- **The Local and Citizen’s Process:** Develop and facilitate the implementation of targets through citizen’s actions and local experiences.

For the Thematic Process, 12 priorities for action and 3 conditions for success have been defined (table below). This is the framework for the thematic preparatory process.





## The Europe Region Preparatory Process

On the proposal of the French stakeholders, the International Forum Committee (IFC) entrusted **the International Office for Water** to coordinate the Europe Region Preparatory Process for the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum.

36 participants from many European institutions, including the UNECE Water Convention secretariat have participated in the first European regional process Steering Committee meeting, on 21 December 2010, in Brussels (Belgium).

A second meeting took place on 18 January 2011 in the morning, within the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum Stakeholders meeting in Paris, in which around 220 European delegates participated. It was the occasion to specify the Specific European Region Priority Targets (SERPT) and to identify volunteers to lead or participate in the preparation of each of them.

### 1. The geographic framework:

The European process for the preparation of the Forum concerns all the countries adhering to the UNECE Water Convention , i.e.:

- the European Union, the 27 EU Member-states,
- the Candidate countries to the European Union,
- Norway and Switzerland,
- countries in South-Eastern Europe
- Eastern Europe, i.e. Belarus, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine,
- the Russian Federation,
- the Caucasus countries, i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia.

Central Asia, (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan) is also part of the European region for the World Water Forum preparatory process; however they are also officially members of Asia Pacific Water Forum. This highlights the cross-continental characteristics of this zone at the interface of two continents.

The specificity of the Mediterranean Countries of Europe (mainly European Union Member States – Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Portugal, Spain - and Candidate Countries – Croatia, Turkey...) have to be taken into account.

A specific approach will be considered to organize work dealing with the particular problems in these countries and based on a partnership involving stakeholders representing the Mediterranean interests.

The “Outermost Regions of the European Union” are associated to the European process and their characteristics such as their specific situation as islands is taken into account in a specific way if not already done in the general processes of their respective natural geographic region.

## **2. Organization of the European partnership.**

To facilitate the European process of the WWF6, a “coordination consortium” was established with the key relevant European networks which can participate and play an active role for animating the “Europe” regional process. Those participants are belonging to various European institutions and main European networks of the water or outside of the water sector.

## **3. The regional priority targets in Europe:**

During the meetings in Brussels (Belgium) and in Paris (France), the European regional process Steering Committee and its partners organizations, has already proposed to prioritize 12 Specific Europe Region Priority Targets (see annex 1). Some of these targets would allow opening the “water box” and enlarge the participation of partners who are not directly specialized in the water sector.

## **4. A participatory process:**

Depending on their specialization, it has been proposed to each associated network to lead or co-organize these 12 Specific Targets working groups, as think tanks, and to make proposal on each of them in term of specific measures for decision making.

These 12 Targets & Solutions Working Groups will be managed and dealt with according to the WISE process, with a large participation of interested parties.

Already, a long list of meetings and events (annex 2) has been approved as input for the European Process of 6th WWF. These meetings are organized in various European geographical areas to facilitate the broadest possible WISE participation.

In addition, a final summary meeting of the European steering Committee should be organised in December 2011 in Nice – Sophia Antipolis (France).

A final synthesis meeting will be organized by the European Parliament Intergroup for Water in January 2012, in Brussels with the coordinators of the European regional process and of the WWF6 Political Process.

Other official meetings will be organized within the European Union Presidency by the governments of Hungary, Poland and Denmark, as current and next EU President until the WWF6 in 2012.

**Annex 1: Specific Targets for Europe Region**

| <b>Specific Europe Region Priority Target (SERPT)</b>  | <b>Target and Solutions Groups' Coordinators (TSGC)</b>   |
|--|---|
| <p><b><u>1. Improve transboundary cooperation in Europe:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementation of the UNECE 1992 “Helsinki” Water Convention on European transboundary rivers</li> <li>- Specificity of the implementation in International Districts. of the European Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>  | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>UNECE</u>,</p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-INBO – EECCA-NBO,</li> <li>-Ministry of Natural Resources - Russian Federation,</li> <li>-EC- IFAS,</li> <li>-REC – Caucasus,</li> <li>-GWP-Med</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b><u>2. Achieve a good ecological status of European water bodies by 2015:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Full implementation of the European Water Framework Directive and its daughter Directives on groundwater, marine water and flood management.</li> </ul>  | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>European Commission</u> (DG ENV-DCE Unit)</p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-EUROPE- INBO Group,</li> <li>-MENBO,</li> <li>-CEENBO</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b><u>3. Adapt to long term water challenges linked to Climate Change and prevent extreme phenomena:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prevention and management of flood risk,</li> <li>- Prevention and management of water scarcity and drought risk,</li> <li>- Demand management, non-conventional resources...</li> <li>- Measures for adaptation to the effects of Climate Change, such as green infrastructures</li> <li>- Research programs...</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>Secretariat of the European International Rivers Commissions, (ISC – CIE)</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators (tbc):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Water &amp; Climate Coalition,</li> <li>-GWP-Med,</li> <li>-VITUKI, APELE ROMANE,</li> <li>-European Commission (DG Climate + DG Research &amp; Innovation)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><u>4. Reform the European Common Agricultural Policy and better balance policy between the goals of food security and sustainable water management</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Irrigation, water demand management,</li> <li>- Diffuse pollution,</li> <li>- Discharges of industrial breeding farms,</li> <li>- Inland fish farming,</li> <li>- Sustainable development in agricultural,</li> </ul>  | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> tbn</p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators (tbc):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Copa-Cogeca,</li> <li>- European Landowners Association,</li> <li>- European Agriculture Chambers Organization, ...</li> </ul>   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| - Water Footprints, virtual water and transfers...  |   |
| <p><b><u>5. Promote better coordination between transport and water policies in relation with inland navigation in Europe</u></b></p>   | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> tbn</p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators (tbc):</u></b><br/> - Inland Navigation Europe (INE),<br/> - Voies Navigables de France,<br/> - The European Barge Union (EBU)</p>   |
| <p><b><u>6. Develop new knowledge and know how on rivers hydro-morphology, restoration and protection of water ecosystems:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote integration of aquatic ecosystems conservation in land planning and other territorial policies</li> <li>- Share experiences on the best local implementation of restoration measures,</li> <li>- Reinforce education on water ecosystems and resources preservation and restoration,</li> <li>- Improve the link between tourism development and quality of water ecosystems</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>European Centre for Rivers Restoration (ECRR),</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators:</u></b><br/> - European Water Association,<br/> - ONEMA.</p>  |
| <p><b><u>7. Improve European drinking Water and sanitation services:</u></b></p> <p>7.1-Give access to the drinking water and sanitation services for the European underprivileged populations (social measures in the EU, European emergent countries, rural DWSS ...),</p> <p>7.2 - Better manage drinking water supply and sanitation utilities in Europe and promote “public-private” partnerships, socially acceptable water pricing, industrial and commercial management, etc...</p>   | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>Solidarity Water Europe (SWE),</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators:</u></b><br/> - UNECE (Water and Health Protocol),</p> <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>EUREAU,</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators:</u></b><br/> - European Commission (DG ENV – Drinking water and UWW Directives Unit)</p> |
| <p><b><u>8. Better coordinate the water and sustainable energy policies:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hydropower, Micro-power plants,</li> <li>- Cooling of nuclear and thermal power plants,</li> <li>- Energy saving in collective irrigation, in drinking water supply and sanitation networks</li> </ul>  | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>EURELECTRIC,</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators:</u></b><br/> - Société Hydrotechnique de France</p>   |
| <p><b><u>9. Adapt Water management to the specificities of European outermost Regions:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The case of European “Islands - basins”</li> </ul>  | <p><b><u>Lead (tbc):</u></b> <u>Committee of European Outermost Regions,</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators (tbc):</u></b><br/> - Conseil Régional de La Martinique</p>  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b><u>10. Reinforce competences of water professionals and public awareness:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Professional training in water (basic and continuing training),</li> <li>- Education of youths, grand public, communication.</li> </ul>   | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>International Network of Water Training Centers (INWTC) ,</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators (tbc):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ambassade de l'Eau,</li> <li>-International Commission of the Escaut – Schelde River (ISC – ICE),</li> <li>-REC-Caucasus,</li> <li>-ROSNII</li> </ul>             |
| <p><b><u>11. Promote technology innovation, “Science - Policy Interface” and dialogue between researchers and water managers</u></b></p>   | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>European Commission (DG Research &amp; Innovation),</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-ONEMA (Chair of the European Water Science/ Policy Interface Platform),</li> <li>-WSSTP,</li> <li>-IWRM -Net Consortium (WaterDiss / the European Water Community)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b><u>12. Develop European cooperation with Third Countries in the water field:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Better coordinate cooperation initiative between the European actors,</li> <li>- Increase the human and financial means for cooperation programmes,</li> <li>- European Water initiative, European Water Facility, Support to African Transboundary basin Organisations, etc...</li> <li>- Reinforce the neighbouring cooperation of the EU with the Balkans, EECCA and the Mediterranean,</li> <li>- Reinforce European cooperation with other Third Countries / BRIC in the water field...</li> <li>- EU – China BMP,</li> <li>- Mediterranean Water Information System, Mediterranean Water knowledge Hub, etc...</li> <li>- Create new funding systems for supporting decentralized cooperation....</li> </ul> | <p><b><u>Lead:</u></b> <u>European Commission (DG DEVCO), &amp; Network of Regional Governments for Sustainable Development (nrg4SD),</u></p> <p><b><u>Other TSG Coordinators (tbc):</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European Investment Bank,</li> </ul>   |

## Annex 2 - Agenda of the Europe Region Preparatory Process

| Year | Month     | Days             | Place                            | Country     | Title of the meeting   |
|------|-----------|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--|
| 2010 | August    | 30-31            | Malines                          | Belgium     | European International Commissions or transboundary river.   |
| 2010 | September | 22-24            | Megève                           | France      | EUROPE - INBO 2010"- Adaptation to climate change effects.   |
| 2010 | November  | 03-05            | Strasbourg                       | France      | Europe Water Solidarity  |
| 2010 | December  | 21               | Bruxelles                        | Belgium     | 1 <sup>st</sup> European Process Steering Committee.   |
| 2011 | January   | 17, 18           | Paris                            | France      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> European Process Steering Committee.   |
| 2011 | March     | 20, 21           | Plovdiv                          | Bulgaria    | Central and Eastern Europe and the Balkans – WWF6 Preparatory Process.   |
| 2011 | March     | 22               | Bruxelles<br>European Parliament | Belgium     | European cities for Water: How cities can contribute to safeguarding Europe’s water resources.                   |
| 2011 | March     | 22               | Monaco                           | Monaco      | Council of Europe – Parliamentary Assembly : Updating Europe’s water and agreements.                             |
| 2011 | March     | 23, 25           | Budapest                         | Hungary     | Futures of European Waters Hungarian EU Presidency.  |
| 2011 | March     | 30               | Bruxelles<br>European Parliament | France      | EP Intergroup Water :UN Water Courses Convention the Hungarian Presidency of the EU Intergroup Water.            |
| 2011 | May       | 3-5              | Istanbul                         | Turkey      | 2 <sup>nd</sup> International Water Forum.   |
| 2011 | May       | 4-5              | Geneva                           | Switzerland | Working Group on IWRM (UNECE Water Convention)   |
| 2011 | May       | 12-13            | Tashkent                         | Uzbekistan  | Central Asia.  |
| 2011 | May       | 18-20            | Yekaterinburg                    | Russia      | Symposium and Exhibition on “Clean Water of Russia”.   |
| 2011 | May       | 30-31            | Lyon                             | France      | International Conference of Local Authorities to prepare the WWF6.   |
| 2011 | June      | 7-10             | Manosque                         | France      | The Congress of the Scientific and Technical Association for Water and the Environment - ASTEE                   |
| 2011 | June      | 10               | Strasbourg<br>Council of Europe  | France      | International Meeting with Members of Parliaments.   |
| 2011 | June      | 8-10             | Poitiers                         | France      | NOVIWAM: Symposium on research and water management.   |
| 2011 | August    | 21-27            | Stockholm                        | Sweden      | Stockholm Water Week.  |
| 2011 | September | 21-23            | Astana                           | Kazakhstan  | Seventh UNECE Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe.  |
| 2011 | September | 27-30            | Porto                            | Portugal    | EUROPE-INBO 2011” and MENBO General Assembly.  |
| 2011 | October   | 19-21            | Limoges                          | France      | International meeting: “Water Management, Challenges in the 21st Century”  |
| 2011 | Oct/Nov.  | 29 oct/<br>4 Nov | Amsterdam                        | Netherland  | Amsterdam Water Week.  |
| 2011 | November  | TBC              | Douai                            | France      | European Parliament of youth”<br>With the support of Artois Picardy Water Agency.                                |
| 2011 | December  | 09               | Bordeaux                         | France      | European decentralized cooperation”<br>With the support of Bordeaux Municipality and Adour-Garonne Water Agency. |
| 2011 | December  | 12-13            | Marrakech                        | Maroc       | 1 <sup>st</sup> Mediterranean Water Forum.   |
| 2011 | December  | TBC              | Nice                             | France      | Last European Process Steering Committee.  |
| 2011 | TBC       | TBC              | TBC                              | TBC         | The Caucasus.  |
| 2011 | TBC       | TBC              | TBC                              | TBC         | The Russian Federation (To be confirm by the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources/ Water Department).           |
| 2011 | TBC       | TBC              | TBC                              | TBC         | The European Outermost Regions (To be confirmed by La Guadeloupe or La Martinique regions).                      |
| 2012 | January   | TBC              | Bruxelles European Parliament    | Belgium     | Synthesis Final Meeting of the European Preparatory Process with the EP Intergroup Water.                        |
| 2012 | March     | 12-17            | Marseilles                       | France      | 6 <sup>th</sup> World Water Forum  |