

## European Union Water Initiative Plus for the Eastern Partnership

# The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on integrated water resources management in the republic of Azerbaijan



**Baku and online, 29 April 2021 (all times shown are CET+2)**

**Venue:** hosted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Baku and virtually via Zoom

**Languages:** Azerbaijani and English, simultaneous interpretation provided.

The meeting will be chaired by Mutallim Abdulhasanov, Head, Division of Water Resources Management, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Chair of the Steering Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

**The objectives of the meeting are:**

The meeting will focus on discussing recent progress in modernising national water policy, extending access to water supply and sanitation, as well as enhancing transboundary cooperation. As the EUWI+ programme will soon be completing the current phase of implementation, the meeting will offer an opportunity to address remaining tasks in conjunction with the priorities and activities of the country-specific work programme, as well as discuss next steps towards ensuring sustainability of the results and reflect on further needs and priorities in the water sector beyond EUWI+.

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

10:45 – 11:00	CONNECTION TO ZOOM AND OTHER TECHNICAL DETAILS
11:00 – 11:15	<p><b>Opening and welcoming statements (moderated by Mutallim Abdulhasanov, MENR)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Rauf Hajiyev, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan - welcoming remarks and opening of the meeting</li><li>• Mr. Rainer Freund, Program Manager, Delegation of the European Union to Azerbaijan – welcoming statement</li><li>• Mr. Alexander Zinke, Senior Project Coordinator, Environment Agency Austria – welcoming remarks on behalf of the EUWI+ Implementing Partners</li></ul> <p><b>Demonstration of a short video on the results of the EUWI+ programme</b> <a href="https://youtu.be/3Pbi-c4qvDk">https://youtu.be/3Pbi-c4qvDk</a></p>
Session 1	<b>Recent progress in modernising national water policy and governance and emerging national priorities (moderated by Tatiana Efimova, OECD and Mutallim Abdulhasanov, MENR)</b>
11:15 – 12:00	<p><i>This session will examine recent progress in modernizing national water policy and governance and discuss future priorities. The session will also focus on strategic planning of the water sector in the light of recent government decisions.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recent developments in the field of national water policy and governance, Mutallim Abdulhasanov, MENR</li> <li>Progress in the development and the start of implementation of the National Water Strategy and Action Plan, Tatiana Efimova, OECD and Rafiq Verdiyev, EUWI+ country representative</li> <li>Future priorities of Azerbaijan with regard to the water governance reform and implementation challenges, Tatiana Efimova, OECD and Mutallim Abdulhasanov, MENR</li> <li>Q&amp;A followed by discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Progress in the implementation of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements and transboundary water cooperation (moderated by Alisher Mamadzhanov, UNECE and Mutallim Abdulhasanov, MENR)</b>
<b>12:00 – 12:30</b>	<p><i>This session will focus on progress in implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the water domain, with focus on transboundary water cooperation.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on transboundary water cooperation with the neighbouring countries and recent reporting under the Water Convention and SDG 6.5.2, Rafiq Verdiyev EUWI+ country representative and Alisher Mamadzhanov, UNECE</li> <li>National priorities in the drinking water supply and sanitation sector, including with respect to implementation of the Protocol on Water and Health, Leyla Taghizade, Ministry of Health and Azersu</li> <li>Q&amp;A followed by discussion</li> </ul>
<b>12:30 – 12:40</b>	<b>Technical break</b>
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Progress in River Basin Management Planning and enhancing monitoring capacities under EUWI+ (moderated by Yannick Pochon, OiEau and Rafiq Verdiyev, EUWI+ country representative)</b>
<b>12:40 – 13:40</b>	<p><i>This session will take stock of progress with respect to river basin management planning in Azerbaijan and review progress in enhancing monitoring capacities. Participants will discuss the ways to institutionalize River Basin Management Planning in the country and the required legislative and technical aspects.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading the water monitoring capacities for surface, coastal and ground water bodies, Alexander Zinke, Environment Agency Austria</li> <li>Updates on the Kura upstream of Mingachevir dam River Basin Management Plan, and additional results, Yannick Pochon, OiEau</li> <li>Future priorities and timeline on river basin management planning in Azerbaijan, MENR</li> <li>Q&amp;A followed by discussion</li> </ul>
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>Next steps towards successful completion of the EUWI+, outlook beyond 2021 and closing remarks (moderated by Tatiana Efimova, OECD and Mutallim Abdulhasanov, MENR)</b>
<b>13:40 – 14:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remarks by EUWI+, Alisher Mamadzhanov</li> <li>Closing remarks by the Ministry, Mutallim Abdulhasanov</li> </ul>