



Dear Water Stakeholder

Date: 11 November 2008

On behalf of the European Environment Agency, the Danish Ministry of the Environment; Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning, the European Water Partnership, and Danish Water Forum, we have the pleasure to invite you to participate in the **Baltic Sea regional workshop**, which will take place **8-9 January 2009** in **Copenhagen**, related to the joint European preparations for the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009.

The preparations for the Forum are reaching its final phase and important parts of the Forum are the policy inputs from the main regions in the world, including Europe. The European process towards the Forum is coordinated by the European Water Partnership and includes preparation of a regional event in Istanbul as well as a regional document with policy recommendations on water in Europe. Additionally a Water Vision for Europe was created by the European Water Partnership within its *Aquawareness programme* and developed together with a large group of stakeholders presenting a Future of Water in Europe. A consultation process has been launched by setting up regional workshops across Europe with the aim to gain region specific priorities and needs. This workshop will focus and elaborate the specifics of Northern Europe. Finally the results from all regional workshops will be added into the Water Vision for Europe as region specific points and will be presented during the Forum.

To ensure concise input into the process and to strengthen stakeholder cooperation in the European regions, a North European regional workshop is being organised around the Baltic Sea. With a strong interactive focus, the workshop should provide the feedback from stakeholders regarding the topics, the document and the Vision and help the finalisation of the European document.

The European Environment Agency is supporting this process, in the first instance by offering to host the workshop at its premises, Kongens Nytorv 28, 1050 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

The timing will ensure inclusion of workshop-inputs in the European regional document for the Forum. Invitees are 5-6 representatives of all countries draining into the Baltic Sea: Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Poland, Germany, Norway, and the Czech Republic. The participants will represent main government agencies, water suppliers, organizations and partnerships in the countries and each with a mandate for providing national/regional statements and inputs. Attendance to the workshop is limited to 60 participants.

We hope that you are able to participate. We attach the programme, workshop announcement, registration form as well as information about the 5th World Water Forum, the regional European preparations, the Vision and "Aquawareness" – the EWP water awareness programme. A list of hotels near the workshop venue is attached and each participant is expected to take care of travel, accommodation etc by themselves. For practical information and assistance with accommodation, transportation etc, please contact DWF att: Hanne Berthelsen: hab@dhigroup.com – Phone: +45 45 16 90 38. **Deadline for registration for the workshop is December the 1st 2008.** All other inquiries about the workshop as well as expression of interest in presenting issues or national experiences related to the workshop themes at plenary or working group sessions can be directed to DWF att. Miriam Feilberg: mfe@dhigroup.com – Phone +45 45 16 90 45

Yours,

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Executive Director

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Chairman, DWF

European Environment Agency	Min. Environment, Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning	European Water Partnership	Danish Water Forum
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