



Baltic Sea workshop on water issues, challenges and options Copenhagen, 8-9 January 2009

Announcement

European Preparations for World Water Forum, Istanbul, March 2009

Workshop on water issues, challenges and options around the Baltic sea – Copenhagen, 8-9 January 2009

The preparations for the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, March 2009 under the theme: "Bridging divides for water" are reaching its final phase (2nd Announcement attached). The World Water Forum aims to receive policy inputs from the all regions in the world, including Europe and the European process towards the Forum is coordinated by the European Water Partnership. The aim of the regional process is to mobilize stakeholders in the region and act as a catalyst for contributions from the region to the Forum. The activities consist of i.a. preparation of a regional event in Istanbul as well as a regional document with recommendations within 8 different themes of relevance for water in Europe:

- 1) Future of Water in Europe – Water Vision for Europe
- 2) Climate Change and Adaptation
- 3) Water for Energy, Energy for Water
- 4) Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation
- 5) Finance
- 6) Sanitation
- 7) Water Scarcity and Droughts
- 8) Water Science and Technologies

A North European regional workshop is being organised around the Baltic Sea to get input from stakeholders to the topics and the final document. The organizers of the workshop are the European Environment Agency, the European Water Partnership, Danish EPA and Danish Water Forum (a broad network of Danish stakeholders in the water sector).

At the same time as the regional preparations for Istanbul the European Water Partnership launched **Aquawareness** – the European Water awareness and Water Stewardship Program with the development of a Water Vision for Europe as one of the main components. EWP would like to take this opportunity to discuss the Water Vision and introduce the "**Aquawareness**" programme to main stakeholders from Northern Europe.

Based on this, EEA, Danish EPA, EWP and DWF would like to invite all stakeholders in the water sector in the Baltic Sea countries to participate in this workshop taking place in **Copenhagen, Denmark, January the 8-9th 2009**. This date has been selected to ensure enough time to include outcomes of this workshop in the European regional document for the Forum. Invitees will be 5-6 representatives of all countries draining into the Baltic sea: Norway, Sweden, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Russia, Poland, Germany and the Czech republic. The participants will represent main government agencies, water suppliers, organizations and partnerships in the countries.



Program:	
Thursday, January 8th 2009	
10.00	Workshop opening – introductory remarks by: European Environment Agency Ministry for the Environment, Denmark European Water Partnership Danish Water Forum
10.30	Water and Environment challenges around the Baltic Sea Introductory presentation by representative of EEA
11.00	Towards Istanbul 2009 EWP presents the regional preparatory process and the Aquawareness programme, Q&A See “ Important notice ” after the programme.
11.30	Introduction to Topic 1: The Future of Water – the Water Vision for Europe by representative of EWP Introduction to Topic 3: Water for Energy – Energy for Water by Henrik Larsen, DHI Introduction to Topic 8: Water Science and Technologies by (Nordic representative in working group or relevant related to technologies
12.30	Lunch
13.30	Parallel working group discussions on Topic 1, 3 and 8
14.45	Coffee Break
15.00	Parallel working group discussions on Topic 1, 3 and 8
17.00	Report to plenary – feedback from working group sessions
18.00	End of Day 1
19.00	Workshop Dinner

Program:	
Friday, January 9th 2009	
09.00	Opening of Day 2 Key findings from Day 1
09.30	Climate change and the need for increased cooperation: Jacqueline MacGlade: Climate change and impacts on the water sector Vodokanal, St. Petersburg, Russia: Raising awareness on water/environment issues through partnerships (TBC):
11.00	EWP: Introduction to Topic 2: Climate change and water DWF : Building National water partnerships to improve coordination in the water sector



11.30	Coffee Break
12.00	Working group Session: Input to Topic 2 and discussion of partnerships to improve coordination.
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Main messages from working group session on topic 2 and the role of partnerships Discussion
15.30	End of workshop, reception

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

For the discussion on the “**Aquawareness**” and the “**Vision**” please read the documents sent together with this invitation.

Please also be so kind to **bring with your /send a filled out Vision mapping document** (provided with the invitation) to the regional workshop, listing all projects/activities your organization/institution is pursuing in reference to the 10 Vision aims. This document will be the basis for discussion during the workshop and an indispensable element for the Forum.

Background:

The organisers!

European Environment Agency:

The European Environment Agency (EEA) is an agency of the European Union. Our task is to provide sound, independent information on the environment. We are a major information source for those involved in developing, adopting, implementing and evaluating environmental policy, and also the general public. Currently, the EEA has 32 member countries.

The regulation establishing the EEA was adopted by the European Union in 1990. It came into force in late 1993 immediately after the decision was taken to locate the EEA in Copenhagen. Work started in earnest in 1994. The regulation also established the European environment information and observation network (Eionet).

EEA's mandate is:

- To help the Community and member countries make informed decisions about improving the environment, integrating environmental considerations into economic policies and moving towards sustainability
- To coordinate the European environment information and observation network (Eionet)

Main clients are the European Union institutions — the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Council — and our member countries. In addition to this central group of European policy actors, we also serve other EU institutions such as the Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

The business community, academia, non-governmental organisations and other parts of civil society are also important users of our information. We try to achieve two-way communication with our clients in order to correctly identify their information needs, and make sure that the information provided is understood and taken up by them.



Ministry of Environment, Agency for Spatial and Environmental Planning:

The Danish Ministry of the Environment is the public authority with responsibility for physical planning, including the Spatial Planning Act which aims to ensure the quality of Danish towns and open countryside. Approximately 80 per cent of Denmark's population live in urban areas and approximately 65 per cent of Denmark's land is farming land.

The Ministry's planning activities balance and unite various interests in Danish land use. In its planning, the Ministry seeks to protect nature and the environment while respecting the living conditions of people, plants and animals.

After each election, the Minister for the Environment publishes a national planning report covering the government's visions for future developments. The government aims to balance development throughout Denmark, so that growth is not limited to cities, and to maintain the attraction of rural districts.

Three of the seven Environment Centres under the Danish Ministry of the Environment will enter into an active dialogue with municipalities about spatial planning in the municipalities where there may be a connection with overall state interests. These three Environment Centres are in Roskilde (Zealand), Odense (Funen) and Århus (Jutland).

The European Water Partnership has been established in 2006, borne by two major initiatives in the European water sector: the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform and (WSSTP) and the European Regional Process towards the fourth World Water Forum in Mexico in March 2006. The EWP is an independent, non-profit organization initiating and coordinating projects and activities on European water issues and undertaking worldwide promotion of European expertise related to water.

The European Water Partnership has recently launched **Aquawareness** – the European Water Awareness and Water Stewardship Program in a high ranking meeting with the presence of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the present Slovenian Presidency. **Aquawareness** has been set up to initiate a shift of mindset in Europe towards a water saving and water efficient culture. It creates awareness among political decision makers, key stakeholders and citizens and supports a change of behaviour and practices. **Aquawareness** is underpinned by the **Water Vision for Europe**, which expresses the challenges, opportunities and chances Europe faces, presenting a future for Europe on water.

In the frame of regional workshops across Europe the text of the Vision is currently disseminated and discussed in order to reach commitments of a maximum of stakeholders towards a common sustainable water management. The aim of the workshop is to disclose region-specific priorities for sustainable water management in North Europe, elaborate the status quo – which vision aims are already covered through projects and activities, analyse the missing or overlapping actions as well as identify main obstacles to the implementation of the vision goals. This vision mapping will create a memorandum of actions which will lead to recommendations for policy making. Finally, the results of all regional workshops will be added to the Water Vision for Europe and presented during the Forum as a European output from the regional consultation process as well a European contribution to the Forum.

More information on **Aquawareness** and the Vision are attached, as well as the working document for Vision mapping. Please be so kind to **bring with you /send a filled out Vision mapping document** to the regional workshop listing all projects/activities your organization/institution is pursuing in reference to



the 10 Vision aims. This document will be the basis for discussion during the workshop and an indispensable element for the Forum.



The European regional process towards 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul, 2009

In March 2009 the fifth World Water Forum will take place in Istanbul. Being the world's largest water-related event, the Fora are organised every three years as a joint venture between the World Water Council and the government of the host country. The Forum is an open, all-inclusive, multi-stakeholder process, which is the culmination of over two years of preparatory activities. It aims to raise the importance, awareness and understanding of water issues and propose concrete solutions to address global water challenges.

To prepare for this Forum a thematic and a regional process has been set up and thematic and regional coordinators have been selected. The thematic coordinators will form consortia to develop their respective theme, topics and sessions. Seeing that issues differ across regions, the regional coordinators will develop these themes in their regional context, provide region-specific input into the Forum and enable an exchange between the regions.

The European Water Partnership has been appointed European Regional Coordinator and took up this role to achieve a focused European contribution towards the Forum. More information on the European Regional Process can be found in attached document or on the website at www.ewp.eu/erp09.

Danish Water Forum:

Danish Water Forum is a network of the Danish water sector aimed towards coordination in the sector and highlighting expertise and knowledge; and facilitating concerted actions.

DWF was established in 2002 by a broad range of stakeholders related to the Danish water sector with the aim of moving from fragmentation to integration - and promoting and expanding its role at the international scene. Among the members are contractors, consultants, research institutions, industries, water companies and government authorities.

DWF is open to all Danish organizations, the traditional water sector stakeholders and relevant actors in related fields such as environment, agriculture, and health. DWF members receive regular electronic newsletters and DWF organize and facilitate thematic meetings. DWF runs a number of projects within the scope of our activities:

- Knowledge network on water and development funded by Danida (Danish development assistance)
- Participate in Splash Era-Net towards increased European research coordination within water and development
- The Danish EU Waternet on improving access of Danish researcher to European research programmes.