

AQUAWARENESS

Policy Forum

Water 2030 - who cares?

Brussels, 22nd March 2010

Representation of Saxony Anhalt to the EU

FINAL REPORT





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FOREWORD

Aquawareness Policy Forum “Water 2030 - who cares?”

We are delighted to introduce the proceedings to the **Aquawareness Policy Forum 2010 “Water 2030 - who cares?”**, held in Brussels within the premises of the Representation of Saxony Anhalt to the EU on the World Water Day, 22nd March 2010. This event, organized by the European Water Partnership (EWP), brought together over 100 high level professionals to discuss concrete policy action recommendations to achieve the Water Vision for Europe.

The EWP Policy Summit is an important annual mirror for the European Union to look into. It is a platform to introduce EU scenarios and to highlight the challenges that water suppliers, technologists and water resources *per se* face. Starting in 2006 with the first Policy Summit, the Aquawareness Policy Forum 2010 “Water 2030 - who cares?” addressed the need for concrete actions to achieve sustainable water management by 2030.

The Water Vision for Europe is the result of a multi-stakeholder approach, but it is also work in progress. Through a vision mapping process initiated 12 months ago, the EWP gained perspectives and expert opinions on needed key actions to strive towards sustainable water management in Europe. The essence of this vision mapping process was the basis for discussions during the Aquawareness Policy Forum 2010.

High level panels and small working groups linked practitioners from business, agriculture, industry, finance and civil society together to the new European decision makers - the new members of the European Parliament, the European Commission as well as the Council Presidency. These interactive discussions and the creation of cross-sectoral partnerships are prerequisites to engage the new European decision makers to tackle jointly water challenges and to improve management strategies .

The Aquawareness Policy Forum “Water 2030 - who cares?” set out practical ideas on actions needed to be taken on European level in order to realize the Vision aims and thus achieve sustainable water management. We would like to thank the youngsters for having participated in the first European Youth Water Summit, which took place one week ago, and for having produced the European Youth Water Declaration with concrete policy recommendations. This declaration was included in the Aquawareness Policy Forum bridging and enhancing a better cooperation between decision makers of today and tomorrow. We are very grateful to contributors and participants for the inspiring high-level debates on the Water Vision for Europe. We thank Grontmij for their very stimulating cooperation and the Representation of Saxony Anhalt for their hospitality.

The current water challenges cannot be handled by individuals alone. It is in the principles of cooperation where the EWP’s strength lies. The European Water Partnership will continue its work to develop solutions for Europe’s water and we would like already to invite you to our next Aquawareness Policy Forum which will take place in March 2011.

The European Water Partnership is an active and open forum. We invite you to join forces with the EWP by contacting us at info@ewp.eu, or visit the website at www.ewp.eu.

Tom Vereijken
Chairman European Water Partnership
Director Water, Grontmij

Fritz Barth
Vice-Chairman European Water Partnership





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Aquawareness Policy Forum 2010 “Water 2030 - who cares?”

The 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul in March 2009 confirmed that Europe currently benefits from a privileged situation regarding water resources and has made important progress concerning water management, infrastructure, technologies and legislation over the past decades.

However, recent European surveys reveal that water scarcity, droughts, floods related to climate change, and access to safe sanitation are still challenging the Old Continent. In 2003, widespread droughts affected over 100 million people and a third of the EU territory.¹ The cost of damage to the European economy was estimated to be at least 8.7 billion Euros.² The total cost of droughts over the past thirty years amounts to 100 billion Euros. With an estimated total price tag of around 6 billion Euros per year for EU countries, water scarcity and droughts represent a serious and growing threat to human health and economic development. Twenty million people still don't have access to basic sanitation in Central Eastern Europe.³

A coherent strategy is needed to mobilize people around common values for joint action to find common solutions and ultimately attain sustainable water management and use in Europe in the future. In order to achieve these community values, Europe needs new ways of working together.

One of the main findings of this Aquawareness Policy Forum was the necessity of cooperation - within the sector but more importantly and essentially cross-sectoral. A change in thinking, strong partnerships and transparent, open dialogues are key in order to exchange, discuss and stimulate action among political decisions-makers, business and civil society to achieving sustainable water management.

Demand management, public participation and awareness for efficient water use are crucial components to achieve the aims of the Water Vision for Europe and to implement water policies successfully. However, public endorsement and consciousness are still missing. Improved communication of the European Institutions and the Member States but also from the sectors will facilitate a better promotion for sustainable water management. Clear, easily understandable and transparent information on the real costs of water is needed to create a change in thinking and motivate actions – not only in the domestic, but also in the industrial and the agricultural sector. Easy access to information and water education are key for everybody to become aware of its rights and responsibilities but also to make an informed choice.

Thirdly, a change in practices towards a modern water efficient water use has to be encouraged, including particularly agriculture. More efforts are needed to reveal mutual interests, innovative solutions and best practices.

Lastly, Europe has the ability but also the responsibility to promote and support sustainable water management in the world by putting water issues as priority of decision makers' agendas.

¹ European Commission, Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts COM (2007), p. 414.

² 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul 2009, European Regional Document, p. 36.

³ 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul 2009, European Regional Document, p. 42.



GABOR SPULLER, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT, SAXONY ANHALT, GERMANY



“Saxony Anhalt is a good example of a country in conversion between communalisation, modernisation and traditional practices.”

The introductory speech was delivered by Mr. Gabor Spuller from the Representation of the State Saxony Anhalt, Germany, who hosted the EWP Aquawareness Policy Forum 2010 .

Saxony Anhalt, an important German water region, is fortunate to have an abundance of water which is connected to a sophisticated water regulation system. This system feeds into a very long water supply system, amongst others the biggest major storage dam in Germany. Apart from its primary functions, being to supply raw water and act as a flood protection system, the dam regulates water levels and provides hydropower. The dam is furthermore important for agricultural cultivation, fisheries and tourism.

The disastrous floods in 2002 taught Germany a lesson to design intelligently, to consider geographical conditions and to ensure public participation. Adherence to these principles ensured the organizational advantage the flood company and the dam system was under one management system. It ensured synergy in response and the ability to tackle the challenge.

While water regulation in Germany has a history of being regionally and locally managed, this is in the process of changing as a result of cross-border pollution and amended EU policy. Specifically, the Water Framework Directive has had a profound impact on the way in which water has been regulated in Germany to date.

The water management system applied in Saxony Anhalt, as the former GDR (East Germany), may be of interest to the new European Union Member States. During the communist era, all water systems were state owned, centralized managed and water companies were social properties.

Mr. Spuller suggested that in view of the successful transformation of Saxony Anhalt, new European Member States would be well placed to undertake an organizational assessment in addition to a commercial one, when water supply systems are transformed. As with West Germany, the communal assets of water management resources of the new federal states are being assigned to local governments – a process which is still on-going twenty years after unification.

The current financial crisis brought about a severe shortage of funding which has increased the pressure of water suppliers to work together, therefore increase their collective efficiencies and in the process create bigger entities.



Venue of the Aquawareness Policy Forum: Representation of Saxony Anhalt to the EU Boulevard Saint Michel 80, Brussels.



TOM VEREIJKEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE EUROPEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP, BELGIUM



“Awareness raising about Europe’s water challenges and scaling up action are key so that the continent’s future economic growth and its agenda for sustainable development is not threatened.”

The Chairman of the European Water Partnership (EWP) Tom Vereijken, opened the Aquawareness Poly Forum 2010 “Water 2030 - who cares?”.

The crises today, differs from before and it is clear that it cannot be handled by individual organizations alone. This was accentuated in the example of Saxony Anhalt.

The EWP is very active to address these challenges and to realize the Water Vision through the following

programs and projects: Aquawareness, Water Stewardship, INNOWATER, Dialogue Platform on Climate Change and Water, the European Water House and the latest initiative - Water MBA Programs.

In addition, through the cooperation between the EWP strategic partners and members the organization brings fresh thinking, productivity and dynamics to the water sector and specifically the policy debates in the water sector in Europe. Finally, Mr. Vereijken was underlining that through policy debates like this one cooperation within and outside the sector is being increased.

SERGE DE GHELDERE, CLIMATE AMBASSADOR TO AL GORE, CEO FUTUREPROOFED, BELGIUM



"There is currently a limited window of opportunity for humanity to choose its future and there are many practical things that one can do to combat climate change. Choosing a future is the way in which the world views and chooses to combat climate change."



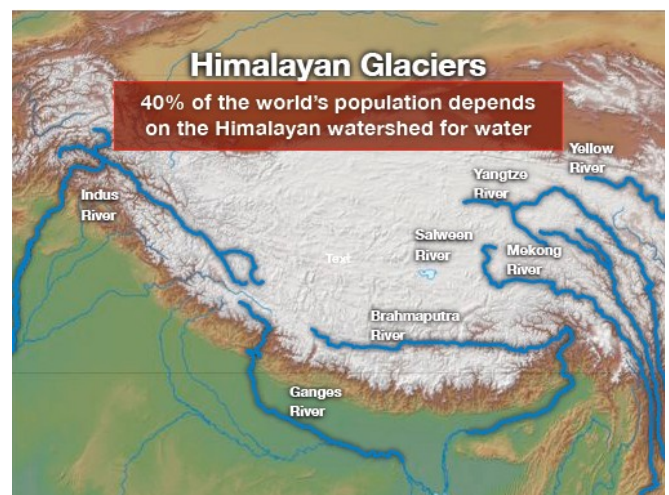
Climate change is having profound effects on the world's water systems: river water levels are reducing, droughts, floods and water shortages are direct consequences. The concomitant occurrences are water-borne diseases, tropical diseases and widespread hunger.

Serge de Gheldere is member of "The Climate Project" (TCP), a climate change leadership program of Nobel Laureate and former US Vice President, Al Gore. The mission of the presentation is to educate the public about harmful effects of climate change and to work towards solutions at a grassroots level worldwide. TCP presenters have delivered 70.000 presentations and have reached a combined global audience of 7.3 million people.



In his setting the scene speech, Mr. de Gheldere was showing proofs of distressed elements all over the world, underlining the facts that climate change is happening faster, sooner and stronger than before.

The best known climate change phenomenon is that glaciers worldwide are disappearing. There are approximately 1.000 large glaciers in the world of which 998 are disappearing. The disappearance of glaciers means the loss of eco systems. This has become very pertinent in the Andes and Himalayas where the glaciers are the main source of water and with them melting, the main water reserves are disappearing. Forty percent (40%) of world water comes from the Himalayan watershed.



**MARIA CONCEPCION GARCIA GOMEZ, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT, DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR WATER, MINISTRY
OF ENVIRONMENT, RURAL AND MARINE AFFAIRS, SPAIN**

“The Water Vision includes tools, inter alia appropriate technologies, improving water efficiency and minimizing pollution, which will assist EU member states to reach the objectives set out in the Water Framework Directive.”



Ms. Maria Concepcion Garcia Gomez delivered a keynote opening speech on behalf of the Spanish Council Presidency during the Aquawareness Policy Forum 2010.

Since the launch of World Water Day by the United Nations in 1992, many water awareness events have been held around the world.

Commemorating World Water Day provides an opportunity to share views on the aims of the Water Vision for Europe.

Regarding the Water Vision, it is important to keep in mind how the Vision incorporates some of the basic key principles of the European Water Framework Directive. Ms. Garcia Gomez was underlining the fact that stakeholder endorsement of the Water Vision will thus contribute to a successful implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Synergies between successful implementation of the Water Framework Directive and civil society's willingness to implement sustainable water management will lead to better water administration and as a result Europe will achieve efficient water services and healthier watercourses.

The Water Vision also considers climate change and coping with the challenges that climate change brings. This is an important component which has been recognized in other international forums, such as the Midterm Review of the United Nations Decade of Action “Water for Life” (2005-2015).

The Water Vision mentions Europe as a responsible global partner. An example of European partnership in the water field is the European Water Initiative which was launched in 2002 and was conceived as a concerted effort by the European Commission, the

EU Member States, partner countries and civil society stakeholders to accelerate progress toward achievement of the Millennium Development Goals related to water supply and sanitation within an integrated approach to water resources management.

Considering the active promotion of sustainable water supply and sanitation, the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean, to be approved at the Barcelona Ministerial Meeting in April 2010, will constitute a framework for the work on the water field in the 43 countries. The Strategy will focus on enhancing effective governance for integrated water management, climate change adaptation measures, promoting water demand management, water quality and biodiversity, and optimising water financing and water valuation. These principles are already addressed in the Water Vision for Europe.



KARL FALKENBERG, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, EUROPEAN COMMISSION, BELGIUM

“The theme for the current discussions is ‘Who cares about water in 2030?’. The European Union cares and all measures are being put in place to ensure enough water of good quality at affordable prices for all Europe’s citizens.”



Mr. Falkenberg delivered a keynote opening speech.

Europe is emerging from a devastating financial and economic crisis which is compounded by existing and long-term demands on scarce financial resources for water services provision as well as the anticipated increase in costs as a result of the effects of climate change on water resource. The quoted amount of €200 billion as being sufficient to provide drinking water to all people on earth is obsolete in the light of the anticipated climate change effects.

From an environmental point of view, pressures on energy and natural resources are one of the major challenges that the world has to address. The European Commission, through the Water Framework Directive, has clearly illustrated the water priorities of the EC. It sets management and water quality standards for application throughout Europe.

Mr. Falkenberg was stressing the following priorities:

- Increased water efficiency and the reduction of water wastages
- Europe has to be better prepared for growing water scarcity
- Climate change adaptation has to incorporate a wholistic approach to environment and water management
- Increased population growth as additional pressure on water resources

Focusing on water efficiency and creating a water saving economy is critical in the light of scarcity.

The total cost of drought episodes over the past thirty years amounted to approximately €100 billion

and the average yearly costs have increased by a factor of four for the same period. Water efficiency is a priority of the European Union and is a fundamental component of the Europe 2020 Strategy adopted by the Commission in March 2010.

Managing water efficiently is a priority for water utilities throughout Europe as the amount of water “lost” in the public supply system is as high as 50 percent in some parts of Europe. This is both financial disastrous for utilities, and it is an area where waste mitigation measures can be put in place by, amongst others, fixing leaking pipes and repairing the public supply system.

Member states are required to submit River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive. These plans will be assessed and measures will be developed to tackle water scarcity, agricultural pollution, the ecological assessments and the application of exemptions to the environmental objectives. The Commission will pay special attention to the integration of new developments such as hydro-power and navigation in the River Basin Management Plans and will report its findings in 2012 in the framework for the “Blueprint to safeguard European Waters”.



PANEL DISCUSSION

Panelists included

Maria Concepcion Garcia Gomez (Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, Spain)
Karl Falkenberg (DG Environment, European Commission, Belgium)
Eckhard Koch (BASF, Germany)
Lesha Witmer (Woman for Water Partnership, Netherlands)
Mathijs Mul (European Youth Water Ambassador, Netherlands)
Millan Millan (Director, Center of Environmental Studies of the Mediterranean, Spain)

Moderation by

Fritz Barth (United Nations Development Program, Belgium)



From left to right: Lesha Witmer, Mathijs Mul, Maria Concepcion Garcia Gomez, Fritz Barth, Karl Falkenberg, Eckhard Koch.



From left to right: Karl Falkenberg, Eckhard Koch, Millan Millan.

Mathijs Mul

European Youth Water Ambassador, Netherlands

During the European Youth Water Summit⁴ held in Brussels prior to this event an important document was generated by the youth of Europe: the European Youth Water Summit Declaration. This declaration was created by building on the views and experiences of European youth. It considers personal opinions and the youth's views for the future.

Eckhard Koch

BASF, Germany

For BASF the following issues are a priority:

- Strategic and organizational implementation of sustainability to identify risks
- Continuous dialogue with stakeholders
- Decreased specific water use onsite
- Reduced emissions to water
- Production of water saving products
- Application of various methods adjusted to the local and regional water realities
- Development of criteria to evaluate sustainable water sources
- Analyse of water risk - areas

Mr. Koch outlined, that BASF already uses the Eco-efficiency Analysis to evaluate products and processes with respect to their emissions to water. In 2009, BASF also started incorporating new criteria such as local water scarcity into the methodology.

Finally, Mr. Koch underlined the fact that BASF contributes its know-how about sustainable water management to partnerships and international initiatives, for instance as a strategic partner of the European Water Partnership.

⁴The European Youth Water Summit 2010 was supported by the Coca Cola Foundation.

“For BASF, sustainable development means the combination of long-term oriented economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility.”

Eckhard Koch, BASF, Germany

Lesha Witmer

Woman for Water Partnership, Netherlands

Women for Water Partnership was focusing on the following key issues:

- Reproductive health is not visible on the water agenda
- A wholistic approach is needed to address health issues together with water and sanitation management as well as the agricultural sector
- Public participation as mentioned in WFD Art 14 is not realized within Europe - however consultation, participation and involvement of all citizens of Europe are an integral part of the EU policy arena

Ms. Witmer was closing her intervention by stressing her concern about sanitation in Europe which has remained a huge challenge. This concern includes our rethinking of how we can reuse waste water.





“Europe will compound its water difficulties and we will be in trouble again.”

Lesha Witmer, WfWP, Netherlands

The Valencian regional perspective was presented by Millan Millan, Center of Environmental Studies of the Mediterranean, Spain

The world uses the same water every year as it had done in the past millions of years. Research has shown that the water from the Mediterranean is circulated in that particular region and one sees the same water over and over. So, it is important that we change the way in which we look at the water. We should seriously consider how water is recycled and put it back into the system. In some Mediterranean areas summer storms have disappeared and the cycle is broken. The hydrological cycle in Europe needs to be revived and when we look at water management we have to consider the full water cycle because watersheds work as a unit.

It is clear that when we talk about using water it has to be efficient and we need to use it with respect.

“Public participation and creating awareness for efficient water use is key to our success in the Mediterranean Region.”

Millan Millan, Director
Center of Envi. Studies of the Mediterranean, Spain



Input from the floor is summarized as interest points and clarifications

Water Management Model

Two issues are important: The role of recycled water and the need for a new water management model that can be applied when water is not for consumption but for other uses. At present, we use drinking water for all applications, except where recycling plants have been installed. This has to change.

Public Participation

Karl Falkenberg, DG Environment, EC

Demand management and public participation are crucial components to successful implementation of policies. Fundamentally, in the European Commission we have a specific reference and we try to be as inclusive and transparent as possible. The EC is convinced that the way in which our societies are organized are not a way in which individuals can participate in decisions. While it is not possible to manage 500.000 individual Europeans it is possible to do this through the structures within the European Union.

It stands to reason that decision making requires information and education. For this one has to rely on information supplied and information relies on transparent decision making. The European Commission puts information in a place where people can find it, meaning its official website. While websites are not perfect, the information is there if you want to find it. Beyond these issues, the European Commission has three levels to deal with a scarce resource such as water: information/education, regulating and price signals.

Water Vision for 2030 - Technology Innovation

- One point not emphasized in the Water Vision for 2030 is technological innovation in water and waste water processes. The Vision needs to look at innovation in business as well as technology innovation. The way in which business decisions are made – particularly if the approach is innovative – is important for sustainability and because innovation is a relatively new field in Europe it is important that we accentuate this.
- Usually when talking about innovation, technology innovation is referred to. Of equal importance is social innovation and economic innovation. This is often referred to as the “soft side” of discussions.

The Water Energy Nexus

The connection between water and energy and the way their interaction is linked is important particularly because water is very energy demanding. Life+ funds a project to engage people to use less water in the UK. While the UK is not water stressed, and there is little understanding of water efficiency citizens are finding that they can save money on their energy bills by saving water. Because of the financial implication, people are starting to engage. A key part of this pilot is carbon reduction.



“We need private participation and we have to be collective in order to improve our water management systems.”

Policy Integration

There is no dispute about the agreement that policy integration should be supported. It is not clear who the EC champion is for this. Is it the DG Environment?

It is the responsibility of the EC to apply an integrated approach to water management and DG Environment is the place where ecology and economy are melded. The same goes for all other cross-cutting issues. The term we use is eco innovation.

Water Promises

1. We will get more women organizations the means to get involved in their local water resources.
2. We recognize the role, importance and duties of all spheres of societies including the youth.
3. We need private participation and we have to be collective in order to improve our water management systems.
4. We support innovation solutions to fulfil needs.
5. We need to upgrade our knowledge of the hydrological cycle.



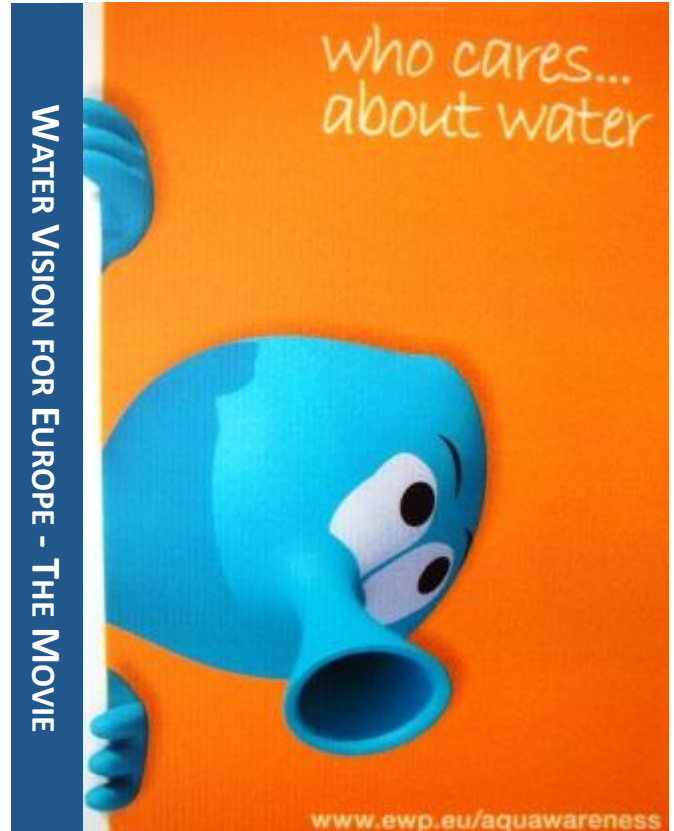
“The purpose of the movie is to translate complex water issues into easily understandable language for everybody.”

Agnes Biesiekierska, EWP

The European Water Partnership produced an animated video illustrating the components of the Water Vision for 2030. This movie was shown during the Aquawareness Policy Forum 2010.

The purpose of the movie⁵ is to translate complex issues into easily understandable language for everybody. Based on the Vision text, the three-minute movie translates the complex water resource issues into easily understandable, everyday terms using cartoon characters. Given Europe’s richness in languages and cultures, dynamic pictures will convey the message easier than written words crossing cultural and linguistic barriers. This way the movie can be screened across Europe and globally.

Responding to the “YouTube” culture of young citizens today, the movie is being used as an innovative tool to raise awareness on sustainable water management and breaking down technical issues into understandable messages. It also shows the negative consequences of not addressing Europe’s water challenges now!



Although many environment-focused movies exist within Europe, hardly any specifically addresses water issues and even less address Europe’s water challenges. Choosing a short film as an awareness tool enables the program to fulfill various goals. It is short enough to catch people’s attention in a busy media environment and it is long enough to be able to transfer messages.

“We have achieved sustainable water resource management and universal access to modern and save water supply and sanitation because we value water in all its dimensions - its economic, social, environmental and cultural importance.”

⁵ The Vision Movie was supported by the Coca Cola Foundation.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

WATER VISION FOR EUROPE

On the basis of the Water Vision for Europe, small groups elaborated in roundtable discussions Europe's water future. This summary reflects the action recommendations for each article of the Water Vision.

Article 1 - Water as a common heritage

Action recommendations

1. EU Member States' authorities and other actors, including business, should take action to inform and educate the public to stimulate behavioral change. The European Commission could facilitate sharing of best practices on this.
2. By 2012, the European Commission should produce a strategy for 2027 on the Future of EU Waters with concrete measures, based on the expected reporting on the River Basin Management Plans.

Article 2 - Water is an essential human need

Action recommendations

1. In order to ensure water as a basic human right, the consensus of all of Europe has to be obtained through the signing of a European Water Protocol. The implementation of this protocol should be monitored by an independent body.
2. This independent body will function on the basis that all user needs are balanced.



Article 3 - Sustainable, integrated and adaptive Water Management

Action recommendations

1. The River Basin Management Plans should be used, not just as a planning tool, but also as a tool for better communication, better public participation and to enhance political will.
2. Transparency in water management has to be increased, including costs, data and decision making.

Article 4 - Water Democracy

Action recommendations

1. Invite UNECE and EU to partner with EWP to host a series of events on water democracy.
2. A benchmarking process should be developed to enable the development of a yearly review.

Article 5 - Integrated demand and supply driven approach

Action recommendations

1. An inclusive process on pricing has to be set up, including intelligent cost planning, metering and transparency. This framework should combine agriculture, housing and industry together.
2. Give the people a relationship to water. Create a water-conscious attitude, and link this attitude to a best use of technology.



Article 6 - Water efficient society

Action recommendations

1. Open dialogues have to be set up at the right levels, including all stakeholders (specifically agriculture).
2. Set up benchmarking schemes on best cost-, water-and energy-efficiency.

Article 7 - Pricing instruments

Action recommendations

1. Grant funding rates should be reviewed by the funding institutions and should be considered to be lowered. Grant funding should be mixed with other financing instruments.
2. Water and wastewater utilities should increase transparency on the bills, to inform about the *real* costs of water and wastewater. Information should be provided on the percentage of costs covered by the fees.

Article 8 - Interlinked approaches to ensure adaptation

Action recommendations

1. A taskforce should be set up to develop principles for retention and recycling of water at a local level to benefit both adaptation and mitigation. The taskforce should report to the EP, and include all stakeholders.

Article 9 - Application appropriate technologies

Action recommendations

1. Set up the European Water House, to collect, monitor, evaluate all information on water available and host a think tank on water policies.
2. Set up a dialogue between industry and end users to overcome barriers on the application of new technologies.



Article 10 - Europe as a responsible partner in the world

Action recommendations

1. More coordination between donors is urgently needed. The EU institutions could take a facilitating role to promote sustainable water development.
2. EU institutions should communicate better what they are doing to promote sustainable water management in developing partner countries.





CLOSING PANEL

Panelists included

Danuta Huebner (Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament, Belgium)

Evelyne Huytebroeck, (Minister for Environment, Energy, and Water Policy of the Brussels Capital Region, Belgium)

Ania Grobicki (Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership, Sweden)

Peter Gammeltoft (Head of Unit, DG Environment, European Commission, Belgium)

Bart Devos (European Youth Water Ambassador, Netherlands)

Moderation by

Fritz Barth (United Nations Development Program, Belgium)



From left to right: Bart Devos, Peter Gammeltoft, Danuta Huebner, Fritz Barth, Evelyne Huytebroeck, Anita Grobicki.



Danuta Huebner
Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament, Belgium

What Benjamin Franklin said more than 200 years ago remains valid *“it is only when the well is dry that we know the worth of water”*. People, governments and business tend to ignore water until it becomes scarce, polluted, too expensive or mismanaged.

Water management is becoming increasingly more complex in a world which is constantly challenged by changes in both human and natural systems that affect water availability, access, affordability and quality. Nobody is immune to these challenges.

At global level, inefficient water management is due to low political and financial priority given to water, to an inadequate legal framework, to poor transparency in negotiating and awarding contracts and to a lack of discussion on price levels.

The fact that Europe is regarded as a continent with sufficient water resources does not make it immune from problems linked to water management.

- 17% of European territory - corresponding to the 11% of the population - is affected by water scarcity at different extents;
- in the past 30 years the number of areas and people affected by droughts increased by almost 20%;
- 60% of European citizens over-exploit water resources;
- on the other hand 20 million people in Central and Eastern Europe still do not have access to basic sanitation.⁶

At European level the legislative reference is the Water Framework Directive, with the aim to establish an efficient water management policy focusing on both the supply and demand side of water.

The Directive seeks to establish a better hierarchy in the use of water to allow accessibility for all European citizens and to implement public policies supporting water saving and penalising waste.

According to the Water Framework Directive, *“Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such”*⁷.

This leads to a crucial issue, central in the Vision for Europe: how to assure universal access to water. It is not only water scarcity that prevents universal access to drinking water. Once again, it is a question of how water systems are managed.

Prof. Huebner was stressing the facts that significant investments, a better governance as well as the participation of all stakeholders - including the private and the local actors - are crucial to ensure a sustainable management of the natural resource water.



⁶ 5th World Water Forum, Istanbul 2009, European Regional Document, p. 48.

⁷ European Water Framework Directive (2000).



Evelyne Huytebroeck,
Minister for Environment, Energy and Water Policy,
Brussels Capital Region

As Brussels' Minister for Water Policy, Ms. Huytebroeck was delighted to be welcoming the European Water Partnership's Policy Forum to Brussels, our European capital!

Ms. Huytebroeck was further elaborating that access to drinking water is the key question, which will be the subject of special attention during Belgium's Presidency of the European Union. The Brussels-Capital Region will be supporting the Drinking Water Directive revision project, while a Communication from the European Commission is expected later this year. During the last quarter of 2010 the Walloon Region will be organising a "*High Level Meeting on Drinking Water*" on behalf of the Belgian Presidency. In addition, for the Ministry effective tools for cooperation are crucial for water policy, especially in the case of the Escaut River Basin which passes through or concerns no less than 3 countries and 5 regional authorities.

As an example of this cooperation Ms. Huytebroeck mentioned the International Commission for the Escaut, which was formed several years ago and aims to define shared cross-border objectives for the French, Flemish and Dutch parts. Its most notable results include the joint development of the central themes of the water management plan for the shared river basin.

The Minister was further elaborating that according to her opinion it is important that instruments for cooperation between public institutions and civil society groups are equipped with real decision-making and financial power, as these are the sole gauges of their legitimacy and operational capability.

Bart Devos,
European Youth Water Ambassador, Netherlands

Mr. Devos was thanking for the organization of the first European Youth Water Summit and was delighted that the youth's concrete policy recommendations were an important part of the Forums discussions stressing that European Institutions don't have to think of how to reach the European youth, but what to tell them. The message is the most important.

Ania Grobicki,
Executive Secretary, Global Water Partnership,
Sweden

In many of the regions where the Global Water Partnership works, water is higher on the political agenda because of the intense water insecurity.

As the mission of the GWP is to support sustainable water management, we see the Water Vision for Europe as complementary.

This year's World Water Day theme is "water quality": Europe is a leader in water quality, transboundary water management, investment in science and technology and water research. For the GWP the contributions that Europe makes in these areas are invaluable and we take them seriously in the decisions that we make as a global organization.

According to Ms. Grobicki it is important to address issues of water quality at the same time of quantity. Water quality issues determine life and death in all countries of the world and from the deliberations it is clear that it is a priority for the European Commission and Parliament.

Treasuring its relationship with the EWP, Ms. Grobicki was concluding that the Water Vision is a very important step towards sustainable water management. She is looking forward to the establishment of the European Water House to operationalize the Vision. Finally, Ms. Grobicki was suggesting the establishment of a European Water Week in the future.



Peter Gammeltoft
Head of Unit, DG Environment, EC, Belgium

The European Commission can address internal challenges that were discussed at this Forum and simultaneously offer opportunities and solutions to stakeholders and roleplayers.

Mr. Gammeltoft was elaborating that in addition to agriculture, industry and climate change water demand is increasing as a result of population growth, changing consumer patterns and growing industrial use. However, problems and challenges in the north and south are different.

To date, water has been regarded as an engineering issue and the first solution was to construct more infrastructure. However, the agenda has changed and water is no longer an engineering issue only. Water is a scarcer getting resource and we need to ensure that it is in good status.

The demand for water can be curtailed and controlled through incentives and pricing which will improve water efficiency. We can introduce a water hierarchy.

The EC's main instrument so far to address the challenge is the Water Framework Directive. It was a big reform of the water policy that was introduced ten years ago and is based on basin management not only at European Union level. The idea of the directive is to develop river basin management plans to



achieve good status. It addresses pressures on the water. All 27 EU States are expected to submit their River Management Plans in March 2010.

The Directive is also a basis for consultation and the first step was to create awareness. The Directive focuses on awareness raising and firstly involved all the member states. The second step in the process was participation through consultation. The EC views the concept "participation" as the key to success. Without it, it will be difficult to reach the objectives of the water policies.

The issues which are not yet addressed are land use, land management and its impacts on water availability.

One such sector that uses 75 percent of all water in Europe is the agricultural sector. Again the issue of land use comes into this debate as land use may provide some solutions to water use and addressing the land use issue may expand water use.

The EC policy package of 2012 will set out what needs to happen with the issue of land use and what the EC needs to do better. It may mean more legislation but not necessarily so.



“This meeting today is a contribution to the process. This is the involvement of stakeholders. From the EC perspective Policy Summits like today should be repeated as often as possible in the years to come.”

Peter Gammeltoft, European Commission

“If you want to go fast, go alone and if you want to go far, go together.”

Ania Grobicki, GWP

“This cooperation between states and between local or regional public authorities, and of course in consultation with the business and association sectors is already a concrete reality in our regions.”

Evelyne Huytebroeck, Minister

“European Institutions don’t have to think of how to reach the European Youth, but what to tell them.”

Bart Devos, European Youth Water Ambassador

“Europe cares about water. Challenges linked to water are highly ranked by the European institutions and many instruments are available under the different policies corresponding to the Community competences.”

Danuta Huebner, MEP



ANNEXE

- **Program Aquawareness Policy Forum**
- **Water Vision for Europe 2030**
- **European Youth Water Declaration**
- **List of Participants**





PROGRAM - PART I

08.30 Registration

09.00 Opening—Session 1

Mr. Gabor Spuller

Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Saxony Anhalt, Germany

Mr. Tom Vereijken

Chairman European Water Partnership, Belgium

Screening of

Vision animation movie

Setting the scene by

Mr. Serge de Gheldere

Climate ambassador to Al Gore/ CEO Futureproofed, Belgium

Keynote opening speeches:

Ms. Maria Concepcion Garcia Gomez

Representative of the International Affairs Department, Directorate General for Water, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, Spain

Mr. Karl Falkenberg

Director General for the Environment, European Commission, Belgium

Panel discussions:

Ms. Maria Concepcion Garcia Gomez

Representative of the International Affairs Department, Directorate General for Water, Ministry of Environment, Rural and Marine Affairs, Spain

Mr. Karl Falkenberg,

Director General for the Environment, European Commission, Belgium

Mr. Eckhard Koch,

Director Sustainability Center, BASF, Germany

Ms. Lesha Witmer,

Steering committee member WfWP, Netherlands

Mr. Juan Millan Millan

Director Center of Env. Studies of the Mediterranean, Spain

Mr. Mathijs Mul

Youth ambassador from the European Youth Water Summit, Netherlands

moderated by **Fritz Barth**, UNDP

Questions & Answers

11.30 Refreshment break



PROGRAM - PART II

11.45 Roundtable discussions—Session 2

Mr. Andrew Farmer

Head of Climate and Pollution, IEEP

Ms. Beate Werner

Water & Agriculture, Head of Group, EEA

Ms. Gema San Bruno

Secretary General, ESHA, Belgium

Mr. Christoph Gleitsmann

Managerial advisor for water & climate change, EIB

Mr. Dieter Ernst

Board Member of German Water Partnership

Mr. Raymond van Ermen

Executive Director, EPE

Mr. Henk van Schaik,

Program Coordinator International, CPWC

Mr. Thierry Umbehr

Secretary General, Solidarity Water Europe

Mr. Liviu Popescu

Chair Global Water Partnership CEE

Mr. Murray Biedler

Expert Water for Development & Humanitarian Assistance, former,
ACP-EU Water Facility Program Administrator, EuropeAid

Mr. Millan Millan,

Director Center of Env. Studies of the Mediterranean

Ms. Sabine von Wirén-Lehr

Program Coordinator, Water Stewardship Program, EWP

overall moderation by Mr. **Fritz Barth** and Ms. **Lesha Witmer**

13.15 Lunch break

15.00 Roundtable discussions - Session 3

Continuation of interactive roundtable discussions

16.30 Refreshment break

16.45 Closing high level panel - Session 4

Mr. Peter Gammeltoft,

Head of Unit, DG Environment, European Commission, Belgium

Ms. Danuta Hübner

Chairwoman of the Committee on Regional Development, European Parliament, Belgium

Ms. Evelyne Huytebroeck

Brussels Region Minister for Environment, Belgium

Ms. Ania Grobicki,

Executive Secretary GWP, Sweden

Mr. Barth Devos

Youth Ambassador from the European Youth Water Summit, Netherlands

18.00 Networking reception



WATER VISION FOR EUROPE 2030.

1. We treat water as our common heritage with an economic, social, environmental and cultural value for our societies. Water is not a commodity like any other one – it's a fragile resource which can not be replaced and we protect and preserve it for future generations to sustain our societies, our economies and the environment. Water sustainability is crucial for us.

2. Water is an essential human need and we recognize the access to basic water supply and sanitation as a human right. The people in Europe have universal access to safe, modern and affordable water and sanitation services. At the same time we are able to satisfy the other human water needs – for businesses, industry, agriculture and recreation and have achieved a balance with needs of the environment also with regard to sustain biodiversity. We can rely on essential ecosystem services from our healthy rivers, lakes, coastal waters and wetlands and our people can also enjoy high quality rivers, lakes and coastal waters for ecologic and recreational purposes.

3. We manage our water resources sustainable within river basins across political boundaries including trans-boundary waters and we apply an integrated adaptive water management approach. All the stakeholders including all inhabitants in the basin participate actively in the management decision process. We apply a preventive approach which integrates quality and quantity as well as surface water, groundwater and coastal waters. We have adopted and implemented ambitious legislation such as the Water Framework Directive and other related legislation and made other policy areas such as agriculture, regional, industrial, trade, transport and energy policy 'water sensitive'.

4. We have achieved a true 'water democracy' where we apply the principles of transparency, integrity, solidarity and equity and where all people and stakeholders are aware of their rights and responsibilities. Our well informed people use their freedom of choice wisely - what they drink and how they use water - and use their opportunity to participate actively in the governance of water management and services. The people have a say in the quality and organization of their services and our services are efficient and sensitive to environmental and social needs.

5. We have jointly achieved a culture where water resources are not wasted, spoiled or overused. We have actively pushed a paradigm shift from supply driven water management to an integrated supply and demand driven approach as well as from an end of pipe to a preventive approach. We are able to satisfy most of our needs with water resources within the same river basin.





6. We have achieved a change of mindset, attitude and practices through raising water awareness and the application of appropriate instruments and incentives. Proven sustainable water practices, pricing and charging policies, transparency about water footprints of individual, industrial, agricultural and local authorities' practices and of products have been useful instruments in achieving a modern water efficient society.

7. Water services have a price. We pay for services and for the uses and our pricing policies are guided by transparency, sustainability, efficiency as well as a social and environmental approach. We use water pricing and other economic instruments to achieve sustainable water use.

8. We are coping with the challenges of climate change as well as with the natural phenomena such as floods and droughts as we are continuously improving our adaptive, integrated management approach and we adapted our infrastructure and practices. Our infrastructure is planned, constructed, operated and maintained in an efficient and environmental and social acceptable manner based on a long term perspective.

9. We apply appropriate technologies and have thereby continuously improved our water efficiency and minimized pollution to a level which is negligible with regard to human and environmental health. Communities, agriculture and industry enjoy the economic and social benefits of a high level of water productivity by applying recycling technologies, closed production cycles and efficient irrigation techniques and other technologies. We promote and conduct research and development to continuously improve our know how on adaptive integrated management and innovative technological solutions and have achieved a fast track to bring those technologies to the markets.

10. Europe is a responsible partner in the world that actively promotes and supports the achievement of sustainable water management and universal access to water supply and sanitation in all countries. We have understood that sustainable water management is key to peace and security and to eradicate poverty and have made water a priority of our foreign and development policy. Our trade and economic policies have integrated water issues and we have significantly reduced our global water footprint to a level that is sustainable.





EUROPEAN YOUTH WATER DECLARATION

Submitted by: **European Youth Water Summit 2010**

Referring to the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes August 12th 1998, we EYWS Participants think that “ensuring and encouraging the active participation of youth in all spheres of society and in decision making processes at the national, regional and international level” are of the utmost importance,

Drawing attention to ‘agenda 21’, of the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro 1992,

Recalling the “Young People-Actors in their Towns and Regions” Conference which was held on March 7-8th 2002 in Krakow, Poland, “young people are citizens in the municipalities and regions where they live, in the same way as any other age group, and must therefore have access to all forms of participation in society and that reaffirming and promoting the role of young people in the development of a democratic society, in particular in local and regional public life, was endorsed and re-established”,

Reminding Aarhus Convention at Aarhus, Denmark, on June 25th 1998 environmental education and awareness among the public and youngsters, especially on how to obtain access to information, to participate in decision making shall be promoted,

Recognizing the ten items in European Water Vision 2030, we the youngsters of Europe approve ten items of Water Vision as well as we suggest to European Parliament to enhance youth participation in decision making process and draw attention to the education on water and water-related subjects.

Emphasizing that youth is the world’s future and that youngsters are going to be the new generation of citizens, policy makers and are going to be responsible for the problems regarding the water issues.

Fully aware of the fact that we the youngsters are very important part of European and local communities and we can also help to solve water problems with our strong power in creativity, imagination, energy and enthusiasm.

Desiring that youngsters are informed and aware of sustainable water management and are able bear the responsibility for future water problems and find solutions.

Keeping in mind, in order to reach the Water Vision for 2030, youth has to be involved to have a better dialog between Europeans and all generations and to be able to share and exchange ideas.

Deeply concerned of European youngsters’ lack of interest, political and environmental topics do not appeal to most of them. They often do not realize that water problems can affect their own health and prosperities, especially if they live in rich and industrial countries where they have access to clean drinking water.





Disturbed by lack of information provided to youngsters concerning water issues and insufficient encouragement from adults.

Regretting the immense gap between deciders and youngsters; we truly sense lack of communication between both.

Believing that there is a lack of trust between adults and youngsters, due to the latter's limited professional experience, that their solution-focused projects are not taken into serious consideration and that youth local initiatives are not supported efficiently by politicians.

WE, EUROPEAN YOUTH, RECOMMEND:

1. **Commissioners of education and ministries of education of member states should make sure that life-long learning of environment and water is part of the formal education system in all countries and encourages that also other forms of learning in cooperation in water and sanitation issues.** However, education on water-related issues should not be limited to school context; it should play a key role in our daily lives.
2. **We also ask them to facilitate to set up a communication platform for interested youths across Europe to exchange environmental issues. We ask the commissioner for the regions and the commission and association of the region to discuss with youth delegates how communication strategy can be developed to better the communication between youth and EU.** Young people need more communication on water issues to raise awareness and more networking. Information should reach youth through the internet, magazines, youth publications, advertisement, movies, and television. For instance, it should be very interesting to create a cross country internet platform. It should also help us to decrease the distance between young people and their commissioners, because decision makers and decision makings institutions seem so far way from us in daily life.
3. **Different kind of events promoting the water issue could be held. We request the EP to promote that the commission develops a funding mechanism to make it possible to have more and similar events like this.** First of all, as we ourselves are experiencing that youth exchanges, such as youth forums, are very enriching for us, we'd like to have more events like this organized. They create a link between people of different cultures, with the same aims and the same goals. Furthermore, competitions are a very interesting way of involving young people in the issue. It can be very motivating for youngsters. For instance, a contest for short-movies promoting the water issue could put international attention on the topic. But, once you've reached the youngsters, and you've managed to get them engaged, there are still some obstacles. The largest problem they experience is the lack of financial means and technical support. Lots of young people have innovative and creative ideas, but they can't realize them due to a lack of money or logistic backing. On that point, it's important as well that this kind of investments and supports do not suffer due to the financial crisis.





4.
 - A. **We ask the commissioner for Youth and Education will assist in developing a scheme to involve youngsters more directly in the policy setting and legislation in the EU.** We suggest in order to increase the involvement of young people, to appoint youth ambassadors. The function of these youngsters, coming from all Europeans countries and elected every two years, should be to represent the different clubs and organizations in their countries. This would imply that some young people are nominated as water ambassadors, who are involved actively in the EU programs concerning the water issue.
 - B. **In addition, we urge member states and the Parliament to grant formal observer status and accredit youth organizations to be able to attend the sessions of the European Parliament.**
5. **We request of the vice president of the EP to facilitate that this declaration and our ideas are presented in and to the European Parliament.**
6. **In conclusion, we ask you to affirm the important role of youth in sound environmental and water management, and for that we urge you to recognize the human right to water and sanitation**

Brussels, March 18th 2010
Youth Water Summit
Unedited version



International Participants of the European Youth Water Summit, held in Brussels, 16-18 March 2010.





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