

22 september 2009



Dear Sir, Madam,

The fifth World Water Forum is getting closer. In March 2009, over 20000 stakeholders will gather in Istanbul, combining politicians, businesses and NGO's to find solutions to attain sustainable water use, under the overarching theme "Bridging divides for Water". The Forum 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 as well as a regional process is set up and thematic and regional coordinators have been selected. The thematic coordinators form consortia to develop their respective theme, topics and sessions. Seeing that issues differ across regions, the regional coordinators develop these themes in their regional context and provide region-specific input into the Forum. The European Water Partnership has been appointed European Regional Coordinator.

In the attached 'planning document' you can find all the information on the European Regional Process, its objectives and outputs. We would like to invite you to contribute to the Process and the Forum, too. This letter therefore focuses on some specific aspects and near-future activities within the preparations.

#### **European Regional Process:**

The European Regional Process has three outputs:

- the Regional Document,
- the Regional Session and,
- the thematic sessions.

More information on the Regional Document and Session can be found in attached "Planning document" and I would invite you to contribute by contacting the mentioned organisations.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November the **European Policy Summit on Water** will take place – the main European Summit leading up to the World Water Forum. This Summit will discuss three of the themes of the European Regional Process on a high (political) level: Climate Change and Adaptation, Finance and Water Scarcity and Droughts. You will find the draft programme attached to this email. An invitation to attend will be sent out shortly.

#### **Thematic Process:**

The programme of the fifth World Water Forum has been divided into 6 themes, 25 topics and 100 sessions. These 100 sessions each address one key question, which have been set up in a stakeholder process over the last years. Session coordinators

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have been appointed to set up session proposals and invite contributions to these sessions, to make sure the sessions can provide concrete answers. Via this [link](#) (1) you will be able to access all the sessions and the work been done so far. Up until the 30<sup>th</sup> of September you can propose your contribution to a session via a form available on the website of the World Water Forum. This form only requires general information on how you would like to contribute. Your detailed contribution will be worked out in discussion with the session coordinators over the next months.

### **Political Process:**

Apart from the thematic and regional process the Forum also features a political process, culminating in a ministerial agenda to be presented at the Forum. This agenda is set up in three PrepComs, the first one of which took place in Paris on 11 and 12 September. At this meeting a discussion paper was presented and further elaborated. Taking into account the comments received, this paper will be changed into a more focused Chairman's paper, which will form the basis of the Ministerial Agenda. We would like to give you the opportunity to give your comments on this discussion paper as well and therefore like to ask you to send any additions or comments to Lucilla Minelli ([l.minelli@ewp.eu](mailto:l.minelli@ewp.eu)) so we can combine them and forward them to the World Water Council. The discussion paper is attached to this letter. More information on the political process is available via this [link](#) (2).

I hope you will be interested in participating in the European Regional Process or in the thematic sessions at the World Water Forum. Please don't hesitate to contact the EWP with any questions you might have.

Yours sincerely,

Harro Riedstra

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### Links

1. [http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2185&L=0target%253D\\_blank%22%20onfocus%3D%252](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/index.php?id=2185&L=0target%253D_blank%22%20onfocus%3D%252)
2. [http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/fileadmin/WWF5/Library/Publications/Depliant\\_po\\_process.pdf](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org/fileadmin/WWF5/Library/Publications/Depliant_po_process.pdf)

