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Presidencia Española de la Unión Europea

*WFD, Common Implementation Strategy*  
**Water Scarcity and Droughts Expert Group**

**Madrid, February 17, 2010**

- **Welcome by the chairs (IT, ES, FR, CE)**
- **Review of New Mandate 2010-2012**

# Aims

- Provide pragmatic and simple indicators for both water scarcity and droughts.
  - To capture both natural phenomena and socio-economic aspects.
  - Built on case studies from voluntary countries (Spain has designated the Segura River Basin District).
- Assist in developing risk maps, identify causes of phenomena and evaluate their impacts.

# Objectives

Main:

- Further analyse and address pending issues: indicators, risk maps, drought management plans.
- Function as a forum for WS&D and provide advise to WDs via SCG.

Also:

- Exchange experience with international fora, and other regions (Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean, UfM/ WS&D Mediterranean working group).
- Ensure science and policy interlinks, communicate research activities, promote advance technological tools (e.g. remote sensing techniques).

# Tasks

1. Support the definition of commonly accepted **indicators for water scarcity and for droughts**.
2. Exchange information on WS&D in the **first river basin management plans**.
3. **Transfer and exchange experience** and expertise with international fora and other regions.
4. Contribute to the development of the **European Drought Observatory (EDO)** under development at JRC.
5. Support the creation of **Drought Risk Maps**, through commonly agreed methodology and scales.
6. Support the development of a progressive integration of WS&D aspects under **WISE on voluntary basis**.
7. Link WS&D policies and strategies with **research initiatives** and promote the use of appropriate **technological tools**.

# Roles & responsibilities

- Development of common indicators: responsibility of leaders (ES, FR, IT) in close collaboration with COM and supported by EEA.
- Member States (MS) will voluntarily provide data to Expert Group.
- MS in close collaboration with EEA and JRC will evaluate European tools for regional assessment regarding WS&D indicators.
- MS will evaluate initial results in pilot river basins, check effectiveness and specify need for early warning systems.
  - Integration within EDO map server will allow evaluation at different scales.
- MS will assess process, provide expertise, and apply results to pilot river basins for future use.
- Water Directors will be invited to endorse a main list of common agreed indicators to be used for assessment purposes and risk map elaboration.

# Deliverables

- **Year 2010:** first set of indicators to be tested in the pilot member states (Already Identified Spain, Italy, France, UK –tbc-, Finland –tbc-,...); contributions to EDO. Presentation of initial results in the International Conference “***Water Scarcity and Droughts: the path to climate change adaptation***”, Madrid, Spain, 18-19 February 2010.
- **Year 2011:** Practical application of indicators for additional member states; contributions to EDO; potential contributions to WISE on voluntary basis.
- **Year 2012:** Support the creation of Drought Risk Maps and assessment, contributions to EDO.

# Link to other CIS activities

- **Working Group Reporting and WISE:** provide specific data for the WS&D.
- **Temporary Expert Group “Agriculture and Water”** (basis available on the DMP report): analysis of measures that could be used to address WS&D.
- **Temporary Expert Group “Climate change and water”:** contributions to links between climate change effects and WS&D issues.
- **Working Group C Groundwater:** expertise when addressing specific measures to prevent and mitigate WS&D impacts in aquifers.
- **Workshop on Environmental Objective and Exemptions:** contributions to the common understanding of *prolonged droughts* and its application.
- Support to the **SPI ad hoc activity:** identification of and support to research needs on WS&D issues.
- Exchange of expertise with the **Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean** related activities.

# Timetable

<b>Time</b>	<b>2010</b>				<b>2011</b>				<b>2012</b>			
<b>Tasks</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
Exchange of first results on indicators International Drought Conference Madrid*	X											
1. Development and testing of indicators	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
2. Development of the indicators based on case studies	X	X	X	X								
3. Contributions to EDO	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Potential support to integration of WS&D aspects under WISE on a voluntary basis					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Exchange of information on RBMP		X	X	X								
5. Approval of list of indicators by Water Directors						X						
<b>Deliverables</b>												
Common agreed indicators			X	X	X	X	X	X				
Application of indicators					X	X	X	X				
Support to the development of Risk maps									X	X	X	X

\* *Droughts and water scarcity: the path to climate change adaptation*, Madrid, 18-19 February 2010

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- **Water scarcity and droughts indicators**
  - Introduction: objectives and goals (ES, IT, FR and CE) (EC PPT)
  - Identification of pilot river basins (all)
  - Follow-up of EEA works on WS&D indicators (leaders and, EEA)

- The Segura pilot River Basin: characterization of the basin, indicators used, risk maps, climate change studies. (ES) (CHS PPT)
- Other pilot cases

- River basin management plan information exchange (**EC PPT**) (all)
- Transfer and exchange experience with international fora/other regions (Chairs, and all)
  - Mediterranean working group meeting (today in CEDEX)

- European Drought Observatory (JRC PPT)
- Drought risk maps and support to WISE (CE, EEA, JRC, all).
  - Criteria and development
  - Data integration

- Research initiatives, XEROCHORE project advances and other. (FR, ES, all) (PPT by FR)

# **Introduction to the International Conference “*Water Scarcity and Droughts: The path to climate change adaptation*”**

- **Madrid, 18-19 February 2010**, under ES Presidency, Organized jointly between Spain, Portugal, France, Hungary and the EC: Outcomes of this conference will be transferred to the EU Council.
  - Main topics:
    - Water and Climate Change.
    - Water Scarcity and Drought Management.
    - Agriculture and water.
    - Environmental, social and economic impacts of droughts.
    - The WFD and water scarcity and droughts.
    - Innovation and technology to cope with WS&D.
    - Worldwide solutions.

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international conference on water scarcity and drought  
the path to climate change adaptation

18 and 19 of February 2010. Madrid, Spain español · english

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**Underlined**

**Agenda**

The agenda of the Internacional Water Scarcity and Drought Conference. The path to climate change adaptation is now available in our website.

**International Water Scarcity and Drought Conference. The path to climate change adaptation. 18 - 19 February, 2010. Madrid, Spain.**  
30/10/2009

Water is an essential element for the development of life and societies and for this reason one of the most important challenges of the future is its correct management, i.e., one which guarantees the quality and quantity of water, especially in the face of climate change.

Taking into account the fact that climate change projections foresee a decrease in rainfall and an increase in temperatures in areas traditionally affected by drought and/or water shortage it is highly likely that climate

Web-site: [www.conferenciasequia.es](http://www.conferenciasequia.es)

# • AOB and Conclusions

Time	2010			
	1	2	3	4
<b>Tasks</b>				
Exchange of first results on indicators International Drought Conference Madrid	X			
<b>1. Development and testing of indicators</b>	X	X	X	X
<b>2. Development of the indicators based on case studies</b>	X	X	X	X
<b>3. Contributions to EDO</b>	X	X		
4. Potential support to integration of WS&D aspects under WISE on a voluntary basis (2011)				
<b>5. Exchange of information on RBMP</b>		X	X	X
6. Approval of list of indicators by Water Directors (2011)				
<b>Deliverables</b>				
<b>Common agreed indicators</b>			X	X
Application of indicators (2011)				
Support to the development of Risk maps (2012)				

- Who does what?
- Role of: Pilot RBs, Leaders, MS, CE, EEA, JRC

## Agreements achieved:

- Within **two weeks**: leaders will provide an indicative bullet-point list on information required from pilot river basins.
- By **April** the official identification of these pilot river basins should be done.
- By **June** MS should provide useful web-links to JRC to find ways to link information with the *European Drought Observatory*. Pilot River Basins should determine, bilaterally with JRC, possible data transfer collaborations.
- By the end of **May**: Pilot River Basins should answer questionnaire provided by EEA.
- The next group meeting will be held in Helsinki, on 30 **September** 2010.
  - Possible sub-tasks to develop indicators and their leaders will be discussed.