

# European Regional Process

*Fifth World Water Forum 2009 - Istanbul*



## Fifth World Water Forum

*"Bridging Divides for Water"*

In March 2009 the fifth World Water Forum will take place in Istanbul. Over the last 12 years, the World Water Fora have grown to be major events, connecting all stakeholders on water. In 2009, over 20000 people are expected to attend again, combining politicians, businesses and NGO's to find solutions to attain sustainable water use under the overarching theme "Bridging divides for Water".

To prepare for this Forum a thematic as well as 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 and provide region-specific input into the Forum. The European Water Partnership is the **Regional Coordinator for Europe**.

For more information on the Forum, please visit [www.worldwaterforum5.org](http://www.worldwaterforum5.org).

## Important upcoming dates:

- 8 October: Regional Workshop in Budapest with GWP-CEE.
- 5 November: European Policy Summit on Water, Brussels.
- 15 November – 1 December: possibility to comment on first drafts of Reg. Doc.
- January '09: Regional Workshop in Copenhagen with Danish Water Forum.

## European Regional Process (ERP)

The objectives of the ERP are to:

### 1. *Develop the Forum-themes from a regional perspective*

The first meeting of the ERP in February identified eight key themes to be addressed:

- Future of Water in Europe
- Climate Change and Adaptation
- Water for Energy, Energy for Water
- Basin Management and Transboundary Cooperation
- Finance
- Sanitation
- Water Scarcity and Droughts
- Water Science and Technologies

For each of these themes a consortium has been brought together and a coordinator selected.

The goal of the ERP is to result in a clear statement on the current situation in Europe, the European challenges, experiences and best practices, building on the Regional Process for the fourth World Water Forum. This information will be presented in the European Regional Document, leading to a set of policy recommendations (policy actions that need to be taken to address the remaining challenges) and key messages (what does Europe have to offer in terms of experiences).

### 2. *Represent geographic Europe*

The ERP mobilises actors in the whole geographic Europe and acts as a catalyst for specific contributions to the Forum. The ERP makes use of existing networks, initiatives and conferences to enable challenges and solutions of the whole Europe to be taken into account, focusing specifically on the Eastern and Southern regions.



At the Forum the European participation will achieve extra focus through the planned European Water Village. This Area at the EXPO will bring together the European participants and will provide extra opportunities and incentives for business and politicians to join the Forum.

### **3. Connect European politicians to the Forum**

The Forum is very much focused on achieving political results. It aims to raise awareness among politicians about water issues in order to create an enabling environment to address those issues. The political process will concentrate on the theme: "Water Management Adaptation Strategies for Global Changes, including Climate Change/Variability" and the discussion will take place at three levels: Ministers, Parliamentarians and Local Authorities. The Ministerial level will culminate in a Ministerial agenda.

The ERP is contributing to this important process by organising- together with Friends of Europe - the [European Policy Summit on Water](#), taking place on November 5 2008 in Brussels.

The "Discussion Paper" preparing the ministerial agenda is available at [www.ewp.eu/erp09](http://www.ewp.eu/erp09). Your comments are welcome before 15 November.

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The ERP has outlined **three main outputs** to be prepared for the Forum:

- [European Regional Document](#):  
This Document will present the work of the European Regional Process and provide an overview of the actions taken per theme, the European challenges and the European policy recommendations and key messages. The drafts of the first chapters will be ready and available on the website of the ERP by the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008. We invite you to send your comments and suggestions before 1 December 2008.

Contributions to the actual writing of the Document are also much welcomed. Please inform us if you would like to contribute at [h.riedstra@ewp.eu](mailto:h.riedstra@ewp.eu).

- [European Regional Session at the Forum](#):  
The European Session will take place at the Forum, bringing together high-level representatives from business, NGO's, politics and research to discuss the results of the ERP.
- [Inputs in the thematic sessions at the Forum](#):  
The fifth World Water Forum's thematic programme will consist of a 100 sessions, each addressing one specific key question. The ERP feeds into this process, providing the European perspectives on the themes.

#### **Be part of the ERP!**

The ERP offers a lot of opportunities to take part and we would very much welcome your contribution to writing the Regional Document, to the Regional Session or on the European Water Village to present your own activities. For more information or any other suggestions to contribute, please contact the European Water Partnership.