



Slovensko predsedstvo EU 2008
Slovenian Presidency of the EU 2008
La Présidence slovène de l'UE 2008

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Sixteenth Session, New York, 05 – 16 May 2008

DECISIONS ON WATER AND SANITATION

Session 2

Statement by
Ms. Marta HRUSTEL MAJCEN
Deputy Head of Delegation

on behalf of the European Union
New York, 13 May 2008

Mr. Chair,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Delegates !

As in the yesterday's session on water and sanitation Slovenia speaks on behalf of the European Union.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, Serbia, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.*

- The EU considers that water and sanitation activities should be embedded into integrated water resources management -including groundwater- toward improved water availability and water quality, and efficient water use;
- It is time to move from a methodological approach to operational implementation of IWRM principles by setting up and intensifying processes to complete and implement IWRM plans with common targets agreed at regional or transboundary scale, combined with indicators;
- Climate change aspects should be integrated early into the development and implementation of IWRM plans with a particular emphasis on promoting water demand management and risk management policies for droughts and floods;
- Concerning water governance, the EU considers that efforts should be made to ensure that in each country one principal accountable institution takes clear leadership of the sanitation portfolio and establishes one coordinating body with specific responsibility for sanitation and hygiene involving all stakeholders across all sectors, including health, education, local governments and water and that a greater policy coherence should be sought between Development and Environment approaches and mechanisms and between other sectoral policies;
- In order to achieve the water and sanitation-related MDGs and JPOI goals within the context of integrated approaches to water resources management, the EU considers that additional and more efficient and targeted use of available financial resources should be mobilized in support of national plans, in particular for sanitation.
- In this respect, and in the context of the International Year of Sanitation, the EU welcomes the water and sanitation related declarations and commitments made by African ministers and in particular the eThekweni -February 2008 - and Tunis -March 2008- ones and supports efforts undertaken to fulfilling their objectives.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

- In addition, adequate financial resources, in particular through climate-related support tools and financial instruments, should be devoted in developing countries.
- Water-related adaptation strategies and measures to face Climate change consequences must be rapidly developed and implemented in particular through early integration of climate change aspects into the development and implementation of IWRM plans.
- In addition to the issues addressed by CSD13, the EU believes that a number of topics should be given a particular attention in the future. These should include transboundary waters (including groundwater), virtual water and, in the context of the adaptation to climate change: balancing competing water uses and linkages between water related extreme events and health.

Thank you for your attention.