



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE MEDITERRANEAN**  
**ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DE LA MEDITERRANEE**  
**الجمعية البرلمانية للبحر الأبيض المتوسط**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Standing Committee**  
**on Economic, Social and Environmental Cooperation**

Special Task Force on the Integrated Management of Resources (Water)

**Rapporteur: Mrs. Paulette Brisepierre (France)**

***Resolution on the Integrated Management of Resources (Water) [endorsed by consensus by the 2nd Standing Committee at the 3rd Session of the Standing Committees, 18 September 2008, St. Julians (Malta)]***

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean,

- In view of the Alger Declaration of May 30<sup>th</sup>, 1990,
  - In view of the Mediterranean Water Charter signed in Rome on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1992,
  - In view of the Marseille Declaration of November 25<sup>th</sup>, 1996,
  - In view of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection against Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea, that came into effect on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2004,
- 1) Underlining the fact that the domain of water relates to economic development (especially agriculture and tourism), to the fight against poverty (access to drinking water), to the improvement of global health, to desertification, to biodiversity and environmental conservation, to urbanism, and, more generally, to the infrastructural organization of a nation;
  - 2) Observing that water withdrawal levels are approaching, and even surpassing the limit level of renewable energies especially in the countries that border the Mediterranean on the Eastern and the Southern sides;
  - 3) Keeping in mind that water demand is called to increase due to demographic growth and to the development of tourism, industry and irrigated lands, while remembering that at the same time the natural resources will decrease in size or become more irregular under the effects of climate change;
  - 4) Fearing that the reduction of water reserves will affect food security and breed tensions between States;

- 5) Reminding the fact that each country must protect its surface and groundwater against pollution risks;
- 6) Reminding that it is also necessary to conserve and protect the Mediterranean groundwater, lakes, watercourses, estuaries, wetlands, marine habitats and plant particularly under the emerging conditions of climate change.
- 7) Underlining the fact that an efficient and sustainable management of water presupposes making trade-offs between rival usages;
- 8) Considering that, in search of the stabilization of demand at its present level, States must now prioritize water demand management policies, instead of the traditional policy of rising the demand, as it has reached its limits;
- 9) Considering that it is necessary to, improve the governance and the public mastery of service, develop the competences of the authorities and of the actors in the water sector, especially those working at the local level, and decentralize as much as possible the management of water;
- 10) Reminding the fact that the prices established in Mediterranean countries rarely reflect the real costs of water production;

AGREES TO:

- a) Collaborate with and assist in rendering more coherent and efficient the numerous initiatives having as objective to meet water challenges in the Mediterranean. Including the Mediterranean Action Plan and the activities of Blue 'Plan, the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative, the Euro-Mediterranean Information Systems on Water, processes in the context of the European Neighborhood Policy and the Union for the Mediterranean etc...
- b) Prepare on a periodic basis a status report on integrated water management in the Mediterranean so as to appreciate the reality of the situations of water management and also to measure the progress made and the efforts still to be accomplished.
- c) Support the following activities and when appropriate promote and encourage coordination by competent authorities at national and regional level:
  - i) The development of exemplary efficient and sustainable water management projects in all sectors: agriculture (rehabilitation of large irrigated perimeters), tourism (establishment of water-saving devices in hotels, golf courts, etc...), urban water transportation and distribution networks (improvement of networks so as to minimize leaks and waste), housing (equipment of buildings with water-saving systems), industry (development of clean and water saving industrial technologies, reutilization of used and non-conventional waters), capturing of fresh water currents in the ocean, establishment of

desalination plants using renewable energy, considerate usage of fossil waters, etc...

- ii) The coordination amongst donors and concerned countries the financing of the definition, the execution, the management and the maintenance of these projects.
- iii) The identification of industrial innovations initiated by certain member countries, for instance sea water desalination processes.
- iv) The facilitation of the transfer, the adaptation and the mastery of the most appropriate and most water-saving technologies in the Mediterranean basin.
- v) The training of a greater number of specialists, engineers, technicians, operators, in the various spheres of water use.
- vi) The organisation of regular regional encounters to allow a regional sharing of experiences and the promotion of good practices.
- vii) For water management to be taken into account by actors and decision makers in fields like agriculture, industry, tourism, housing..., not directly related to water.
- viii) For planning and cooperation resources allowing the implementation of objectives to be shared and assumed by all actors.
- ix) The implementation in Mediterranean States of national legislations and regulations urging the implementation of more severe quality norms regarding the equipment used for stocking and distributing water, and to increase the control and measurement of individual consumptions, the fight against all forms of pollution, and the adoption of more water saving consumption habits by all actors and consumers.
- x) The reinforcement of local water management actors and the promotion of tools and methods allowing such actors to truly participate in the implementation of more sustainable water management methods.
- xi) For water management to become one of the most important points of a decentralised and interdependent cooperation.
- xii) The development of economic tools inducing water-saving, such as the decoupling of assistance, agro-environmental measures and eco-conditionality, ratemaking and quota systems...
- xiii) The creation of “water saving” seals of approval to be delivered to entities such as corporations, agricultural properties, hotels, that consume important amounts of water, asking them to conform themselves to regulations.

- xiv) The recovering of the costs of water while at the same time taking into account social justice.
- xv) The development of partnerships with consumer associations regarding the price of water to help all consumers install water-saving systems.
- xvi) The development and implementation of educational, informative and awareness programmes destined to all categories of consumers, leaning on the work of NGOs and benefiting from the work of the Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES) and underlining the improper uses, wastefulness, pollution of water and its impacts on the environment and on health.
- xvii) The development of policies of non-contamination and of water conservation comprising the establishment of quality norms, of permanent and rigorous water quality controls, of identification of contaminated spots and regions, of the establishment of severe sanctions against all those who violate the law, and of the proliferation of treatment plants.