

KEYNOTE SPEECH OF JEAN-FRANCOIS DONZIER,

General Director of the IOWATER, partner of the Water Think Thank

“Vision on the water demand management and the Mediterranean Water Knowledge Platform”

Foundation HSH Albert II of Monaco - WTT Side Event - April 14 - 17h15/19h00 –

Hyundai Hotel - Gyeongju

MONSEIGNEUR, MADAME LA MINISTRE,

FLOODS, WATER-BORNE DISEASES, WATER SHORTAGES, POLLUTION, WASTAGE, DESTRUCTION OF AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS: THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SITUATION ENCOUNTERED IN MANY MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES REQUIRES THAT COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED AND CONSISTENT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT BE IMPLEMENTED TO PRESERVE THE FUTURE AND THE HUMAN HERITAGE.

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL EXACERBATE THIS SITUATION AND INCREASE TENSIONS, AS ONE OF THE FIRST CONSEQUENCES WILL BE TO MODIFY HYDROLOGICAL CYCLES AND WATER WILL BE ONE OF THE FIRST VICTIMS OF THA CLIMATE CHANGE.

THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION WILL BE AN HOT SPOT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE.

IT IS NECESSARY TO REACT QUICKLY, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

ADAPTATION IS INITIALLY A PROBLEM OF BETTER WATER MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE, MAINLY ORGANIZED AT BASIN AND SUB- BASIN LEVEL.

SITUATIONS OF WATER SHORTAGES ARE A GROWING PROBLEM IN AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MEDITERRANEAN AREAS AND ARE LIKELY TO WORSEN IN THE FUTURE.

WATER SCARCITY MANAGEMENT PLANS SHOULD PRIORITIZE THE VARIOUS USES, ENSURING A BETTER OPTIMIZATION OF WATER AND AVOIDING WASTAGES.

WATER SAVING, LEAK DETECTION, RECYCLING, THE RE-USE OF TREATED WATER, GROUNDWATER RECHARGE, THE DESALINATION OF SEA WATER, RESEARCH ON LOW-CONSUMPTION USES, MUST BECOME PRIORITIES.

BUT WE CANNOT MANAGE THAT WE CANNOT MEASURE....

GOOD INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT RELIES ON GOOD KNOWLEDGE.

THE SUCCESS OF WATER POLICIES AND INVESTMENTS IS LINKED TO CLEAR AND SHARED OBJECTIVES.

IT IS RECOMMENDED TO PROMOTE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF REAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN EACH COUNTRY AND BASIN, PROVIDING KNOWLEDGE ON RESOURCES AND THEIR USES, POLLUTING PRESSURES, ECOSYSTEMS AND THEIR FUNCTIONING, THE FOLLOW-UP OF THEIR EVOLUTIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENT.

THESE INFORMATION SYSTEMS WILL HAVE TO BE USED AS AN OBJECTIVE BASIS FOR DIALOGUE, NEGOTIATION, REPORTING, DECISION-MAKING AND EVALUATION OF UNDERTAKEN ACTIONS, AS WELL AS COORDINATION OF FINANCING FROM THE VARIOUS DONORS.

BUT, THIS INFORMATION IS BAD: TOO OFTEN DISPERSED, HETEROGENEOUS AND INCOMPLETE, AND IS RARELY COMPARABLE AND ADAPTED TO DECISION-MAKING...

THESE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ARE PRIORITY TOOLS TO BE DEVELOPED IN ORDER TO SUPPORT AN EFFECTIVE POLICY FOR WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND RISK PREVENTION.

“THE MEDITERRANEAN WATER KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM” HAS BEEN INITIATED TO PROVIDE ADAPTED TOOLS AND MEANS NECESSARY FOR GOOD WATER GOVERNANCE IN EACH COUNTRY.

THE PROJECT RECEIVED THE LABEL OF THE UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN LAST APRIL.

THIS PROJECT AIMS TO PROVIDE A COMMON BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND TO DELIVER AN ASSESSMENT OF WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND USE BY DRAFTING OF WHITE PAPERS AT NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS.

THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE FOR WATER AND THE MEDITERRANEAN WATER INSTITUTE ARE THE MAIN PROMOTERS OF THIS INITIATIVE WITH TECHNICAL COORDINATION LED BY EMWIS, THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM AND MENBO, THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANISATIONS.

FOUR SOUTH MEDITERRANEAN PILOT COUNTRIES, IN A 1ST PHASE, ARE PIONEERING IN BUILDING THEIR NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEMS: MOROCCO, TUNISIA, LEBANON AND JORDAN.

THE PLATFORM WILL ALSO HELP TO PROVIDE COMPARABLE DATA TO CALCULATE INDICATORS REQUIRED FOR INTERNATIONAL REPORTING.

OBVIOUSLY, THE MEDITERRANEAN WATER KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM PROVIDES A GOOD BASIS FOR IMPROVING WATER DEMAND MANAGEMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IN PARTICULAR ALONG THE 3 AXIS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE WATER THINK TANK:

- **MEASURING AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND NEEDS, IDENTIFYING ACTORS AND CONCERNED TERRITORIES,**
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- **ALLOCATING SCARCE WATER RESOURCES BETWEEN MULTIPLE AND CONFLICTING USES.**
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- **PRESERVING THE WATER ECOSYSTEMS FROM OVER-EXPLOITATION, POLLUTION AND PRESSIONS.**

WHITE PAPERS AND WATER ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS ARE VALUABLE TOOLS TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE WATER THINK TANK.

THE MEDITERRANEAN KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM IS OF COURSE AT THE SERVICE OF THE THINK TANK!

AS YOU SAID, MONSEIGNEUR, TODAY, ALL EFFECTIVE TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE TO MOVE FORWARD FAST.

WE ONLY NEED A STRONG POLITICAL WILL TO DECIDE TO DO SO, AS YOU SAID MADAME LA MINISTRE!

LET'S GET MOBILIZED!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION