

PEACE WITH WATER

Faire la paix avec l'eau - Fare pace con l'acqua - Frieden mit Wasser

Brussels, 12-13 February 2009, European Parliament

1. General presentation

The international conference “**Peace with Water**” is organised by the World Political Forum in collaboration with European Parliamentary Groups and the European Research Institute on Water Policy (IERPE) (Belgium).

“**Peace with water**” has two different meanings here:

- To stop all aggressions/predations targeted against water resources;
- To prevent and avoid conflicts surrounding propriety and access to water.

As known, the problem of water has entered strongly at the top of the UN institutions’ political agenda, in particular in connection with the world programme of strategies of mitigation and adaptation to face climate change.

“**Peace with water**” follows the objectives and overall spirit of the *World Water Assembly for Elected Representatives and Citizens (AMECE)*, held for the first time at the European Parliament (18-20 March 2007), and finds its roots in the frame of perspectives opened by the propositions and resolutions adopted by the conference «*From Global Warning to Global Policy*», organised by the *World Political Forum* in Turin (Italy) on 28 and 29 March 2008, about the priority actions that have to be taken to ensure effective politic solutions on the continental and global levels for the human, social, economic and technological challenges imposed by climate change.

The conference will be held on 12 and 13 February 2009 in Brussels, at the European Parliament. Participation is open to any person or organisation sharing the conference’s objectives. It is however limited to 600 participants because of logistical constraints at the Parliament (number of seats, etc.), and the following categories of participants are invited and expected as priority:

- parliamentarians,
- local elected representatives and administrators
- governments and international/intergovernmental organisations
- public unions and other concerned unions (agricultural, industrial...)
- water companies
- representatives of the education, academic and research areas
- associations and movements of the civil society

The Conference is posed under the direction of a presidential committee, composed of:

- **Mikhail Gorbachev** (Russia), President (Mr. Gorbachev is president of *The World Political Forum* and of *Green Cross International*, two active organisations on prevention and resolution of water conflicts);
- **Mario Soares** (Portugal), former President of the Republic of Portugal and President of the International Committee for a World Water Contract;
- **Guy Laliberté** (Canada), Founder of the *Cirque du Soleil* and of the «*One Drop*» Foundation;
- **Marina da Silva** (Brazil), Senator, former Minister for Environment of the Government of Brazil

The World Political Forum will ensure the General Secretariat of the conference's organisation, in close relation with the Parliamentarian Groups and the secretariat of the IERPE.

2 . Objectives of “Peace with Water”

The main problems and issues of water, at the base of the current "**world water crisis**" are widely known. There are *proposals and solutions* elaborated at national and international levels, including United Nations bodies, major world Fora (World Water Forum, World Social Forum, World Economic Forum, World Forum of Towns and Local Communities...) and, recently, in the scenarios constructed by the International Study Group on Climate Change (IPCC).

The main objective of “Peace with Water” is to define and approve a proposal of **World Water Protocol (WWP)**, based on the prevention of conflicts, the promotion of the right to water for everybody and the safeguard of the world water patrimony for a responsible and effective management of water as common good, also in the interest of all the living species and of future generations (beyond a not well defined anthropocentrism).

We are not talking about taking the place of States. In pursuing this objective, the Conference intends to contribute, through the elaboration of a proposal of World Protocol, to the current international governmental processes aiming at defining and approving the 2012 post-Kyoto agreements.

In this perspective, some works of preparatory research are being elaborated under the responsibility of IERPE. They will be put at disposal of the participants at the latest at the conference itself. The Conference focuses on four key-issues:

- The three main water-ill countries of the world for the next 30 years: The United States of America, India and China;
- The richest fresh water reservoirs of the world in the 21st century: Canada, the Latin-American continent and Russia;
- A water-war-prone region: the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle-East within a bigger geographical zone covering Minor and Central Asia;
- A continent to free from thirst: Africa.

For these works the aim is, among others, to reach a preparation of a world panorama of the current conflicts regarding water and to establish an inventory of the juridical and political-institutional engineering of trans-national cooperative nature created in these last years, through the world, with the aim to prevent and/or solve the conflicts.

3. Why a proposal for a “World Water Protocol?”

The current priorities of action regarding environment and water focus around the strategies of mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The central pivot of these strategies goes to energy (both at the level of productive activities and at the one of emissions) and on the price of consumption goods (food, combustible fossils, CO2 tons...).

The approach based on energy and on the world price of the CO2 ton is AN answer. The fight against the warming of the atmosphere passes through complex solutions of different sectors (health, soil, agriculture, transports, migrations, social values...) and levels. The energetic equations, alone, are not sufficient.

Therefore it is important to try to put the problem of water, as such, in the agenda of the negotiations 2010-2012 which will come out of the conference of Copenhagen in December 2009 in view of the new agreements Post-Kyoto of 2013.

The proposal of “Peace with Water” for the World Water Protocol (WWP) will be submitted to the attention of the people in charge for the Copenhagen conference. It will be up to the negotiators of the “post-Kyoto” to decide which follow-up should be reserved to it. The promoters of WWP will try evidently, to make their best to let the proposal be considered.

If the water problem should not be put in the agenda of the post-Kyoto negotiators, two scenarios seem to be possible in the field of water: we could witness the absence of a specific intergovernmental agreement about water at a world level (in this case, the problem of water, as the one of alimentation, will be treated only within the frame of the measures and instruments relevant for the energetic matter); otherwise the public intergovernmental gap could be covered by a world regulation of water problems by the actors of the water business (in this case, the development of the universal right to life and the management of the water resources of the planet will be mainly influenced by the needs and interests of the big industrial, commercial, energetic and food groups of the world (producers and consumers of water).

In both cases, the international community will openly get far from the engagements taken in 2000 with the Millennium Development Goals.

Conference Programme

(15 October 2008)

A . General Structure

The conference will be structured on four half-days.

All the works will be held as plenary sessions.

It will be possible to make interventions in various languages: Spanish, German, French, Portuguese, English, Dutch, Italian, Russian...

The first half-day (morning of 12 February) will handle the world water issue.

It will be structured in three sessions

- **The politico-cultural message**
by the representatives of the organizing institutions
- **Water: imaginary and life of peoples**
to express “witnessing” of reconciliation with water
- **The knowledge at the base of “Peace with Water”**
short presentation of the research works, which complete version reports will be at disposal of participants

The three other half-days (afternoon of 12 February and whole 13 February) will be devoted to the study, discussion and approval of the content of the proposal of World Water Protocol (which will be distributed to all participants before the Conference) around **three big blocks**:

- block 1. Preamble and considerations.
Articles regarding: the objective of WWP, the definitions used, the application domains, general dispositions, principles and orientations;
- block 2. Articles regarding: the specific objectives and data, measure and evaluation of achieved progresses, control/alert, information and sensibilisation of public, participation of citizens, research and innovation activities;
- block 3. Articles regarding: cooperation in all its forms, organization and secretariat, financial engineering, dispositions of follow-up.

The study and discussion of each block will be introduced by a session Chairperson and will have a reporter.

Both programmed and spontaneous interventions are scheduled for the whole debate. The purpose is to get to about 80 total interventions.

The afternoon of 13 February will include two “conclusive” parts:

- the synthesis proposed by the three reporters
- the closing speeches

B . Detailed Structure

(Nota bene: *the most part of the mentioned names must still be confirmed. Will be completed with names from China, Russia, Central and East Europe)*

12 February, 2009

8h15 - 9h00 Reception of the participants

9h15 Opening of the works

Session 1. THE WORLD WATER ISSUE

9h15 - 10h15 **The politico-cultural message**

- Mikhail Gorbachev (Russia), President of the *World Political Forum*
- Mario Soares (Portugal), former President of the Republic of Portugal
- Hans-Gert Pöttering (Germany), President of the European Parliament
- Riccardo Petrella (Italy), President of IERPE

10h15-11h45 **Water: imaginary and life of peoples**

Chairperson: Marcelo Barros (Brazil), Theologian
Kaka Wera, indio of the Guarani nation (Brazilian-Paraguayan)
Siddhârta (India), representative of the indigene peoples of the American Grand Nord
Aminata Traoré (Mali), former Minister for Culture of Mali

11h45-13h00 **The knowledge at the base of “Peace with Water”** by the équipe IERPE

- The capital of knowledge «world patrimony» (UN agencies and others);
- The main critique issues (shortened in 10 flashes);
- Panorama of the conflicts and juridical-institutional engineering existing to prevent and solve conflicts

13h00-14h30 Lunch

Session 2. STUDY OF THE WORLD WATER PROTOCOL

Block I. Articles regarding: the objective of WWP, the definitions used, the application domains, the general dispositions, principles and orientations;
Chairperson: Manuel Baquenado (Chili), President, Instituto de Ecologia Politica
Reporter: Wenonah Hauter (USA), Director , Food and Water Watch

14h30-14h40 Introduction by the session Chairperson

DEBATES

14h40-15h10 Scheduled interventions (10 minutes each)
Guido Sacconi (Italy), President of the Temporary Commission of the EP about Climate Change;
Vandana Shiva (India), President of the Foundation of Research for Science, Technology and Natural Resources;
Pedro Arrojo (Spain), President Foundation for a New Culture of Water;

15h10-15h40 Spontaneous Interventions (5 minutes each): six interventions (min.).

- 15h40-16h10 Scheduled interventions:
Maude Barlow (Canada), President of the Council of Canadians;
Mbassy Elong (Benin), Secretary General of the African Local Cities and Governments;
Valerio Calzolaio (Italy), former Secretary of State for Environment.
- 16h10-16h30 Spontaneous Interventions: four interventions (min.)
- 16h30-16h50 Scheduled interventions:
Alexander Likhotal (Russia), CEO of Green Cross International
William J. Cosgrove (Canada), President of Ecoconsult Inc., Consultant at the PCCP-UNESCO
- 16h50-17h10 Spontaneous Interventions: four interventions (min.)
- 17h10-17h20 Transition

Session 3. STUDY OF THE WORLD WATER PROTOCOL

Block II. Articles regarding: the specific objectives and data, measure and evaluation of achieved progresses, control/alert, information and sensibilisation of public, participation of citizens, research and innovation activities
Chairperson: Christiane Franck (Belgium), Director General Vivaqua
Reporter: Edoardo Mestre (Mexico), Director, La Tribuna del Agua (EXPO 2008)

- 17h20-17h30 Introduction by the session Chairperson
- 17h30-18h00 Scheduled interventions:
Ashok Khosla (India), Co-President of the Club of Rome and President of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Mohan Munasinghe (Sri Lanka), Vice-President, IPCC
Anne Le Strat (France), President of Paris Waters

13 February, 2009

- 9h00-10h30 **Continuation of session 3**
- 9h10-9h20 The Chairperson reopens the works
- 9h20-9h40 Spontaneous Interventions: four interventions
- 9h40- 10h00 Scheduled interventions:
Cristina Gutierrez Cortines (Spain), European Parliamentarian, Founder of the European Water Forum
Gertrude Mongella (South Africa), President of the PanAfrican Parliament
- 10h00-10h20 Spontaneous Interventions: four interventions
- 10h20-10h50 Scheduled interventions:
A representative of UN-Water
Tony Allan (UK), Professor at the King's College of London
Wolfgang Sachs (Germany), Director of the Umwelt Institut in Wuppertal
- 10h50-11h10 Spontaneous Interventions: four interventions
- 11h10-11h20 Anders Wijkman (Sweden), European Parliamentarian, Member of the Temporary Commission of the EP about Climate Change

Session 4. STUDY OF THE WORLD WATER PROTOCOL

Block III Articles regarding: cooperation in all its forms, organization and secretariat, financial engineering, dispositions of follow-up.
Chairperson: Ernst U. Von Weiszäcker (Germany), Dean of the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UCLA, USA.
Reporter: Federico Mayor Zaragoza (Spain), former Director General of UNESCO.

- 11h30-11h40 Introduction by the session Chairperson
- 11h40-12h20 Scheduled interventions:
Luigi Infanti (Chili), Bishop of the Diocese of the Chilean Patagonia
Adriana Marquisio (Uruguay), public services union
Roberto Musacchio (Italy), European Parliamentarian, Vice-President of the Temporary Commission of the EP about Climate Change
Mohamed Bello Tuga (Nigeria), Secretary General of the ABN (Autorité du bassin du Niger)
- 12h20-12h50 Spontaneous Interventions: six interventions
- 12h50-13h00 Representative of the Japanese Parliament
- 13h00-14h30 Lunch
- 14h30-14h50 Spontaneous Interventions: four interventions
- 14h50-15h20 Scheduled interventions:
Patrick McCully (UK), Executive Director, International Rivers, Berkeley
Anders Berntell (Sweden), Executive Director, Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI)
Meike van Ginneken (Nederland), Senior Water & Sanitation Specialist Water and Sanitation Unit, World Bank
- 15h20-15h40 Spontaneous Interventions: four interventions

Session 5. CONCLUSIONS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Chairperson: Giulietto Chiesa (Italy), European Parliamentarian

- 15h45-16h35 Presentation of the three reporters:
W. Hauter (USA)
E. Mestre (Mexico)
Federico Mayor (Spain)
- 16h35-16h55 General Remarks
Sylvie Paquerot (Canada), Professor at the University of Ottawa
Stephen Mc Caffrey (Canada), Professor at the University of Pacific
- 17h00-18h00 The path of action for water
Marina da Silva (Brazil), Senator, former Minister for Environment
Guy Laberté (Canada), Founder of the Cirque du Soleil
Paul Magnette (Belgium), Federal Minister for Environment
Prince El Hassan of Jordan
Mikhail Gorbachev (Russia), President of The World Political Forum