

Memorandum Of Understanding

between

East Aegean Basin Directorate (Bulgaria) and l'Agence de l'eau Artois-Picardie (France)

The East Aegean Basin Directorate (Bulgaria) and the Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie (France) have agreed on starting and developing a cooperation based on the exchange of experience in the field of water management, and more specifically on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and its economic elements.

Contracting parties

This Memorandum Of Understanding is signed between the East Aegean Basin Directorate (Bulgaria) and the Agence de l'Eau Artois Picardie (France).

The East Aegean Basin Directorate, under the authority of the Ministry of Environment and Water with the social headquarters in Bulair Street, n°26, Plovdiv, Bulgaria, legally represented by Director, Mr. Nikola Karnolski.

The Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie with the social headquarters in Marceline Street, n°200, Douai, France, represented by Director, Mr. Alain Strébelle.

Objectives

The East Aegean Basin Directorate and the Artois-Picardie River basin – with the help of the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Water - have expressed their willingness to develop cooperation on the following topics concerning East Aegean Basin District:

1. Development of baseline scenario for 2015
2. Pricing policy and cost-recovery
 - a. Assessment of the current cost-recovery level
 - b. Assessment of the role of pricing in programme of measures
 - c. Proposals of water pricing policies based on the cost-recovery assessment, polluter pays principle and including assessment of environmental and resource costs
3. Social affordability of the price of water services for households and economic sectors
4. Development of programme of measures
 - a. Development of cost-effectiveness analysis
 - b. Development of Cost-benefit analysis

These subjects are deeply related with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) but also address key issues regarding water management (i.e. pricing policy, economic and social impacts of water policy, etc.).

On all these topics a specific focus will be done on groundwater protection and management (including the use of economic instruments to do so) as groundwater is a key issue for both river basins.

Development of the cooperation and expected outputs

The cooperation between East Aegean Basin Directorate and Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie might start at the signature of this Memorandum of Understanding (expected date : 20 th of February 2006) and its duration will be two years with the possibility to extend it.

The cooperation will include expert visits from both sides (with due report for each mission) but also exchange of expertise through emails and documents.

The outputs are the exchange of experience and gaining knowledge of both sides in the implementation of the WFD (i.e. comparison of methods, data collection, results, etc.).

Seminars will be also held in order to present the outputs of this cooperation to other River Basin Directorates in Bulgaria as well as other stakeholders.

East Aegean Basin Directorate
Director
Mr. Nikola Karnolski

Agence de l'Eau Artois-Picardie
Director
Mr. Alain Strébelle