

"Integrating Management and Protection: Main Goal of the Water Framework Directive"

The conference concluded with a technical visit to the Tous Dam and the natural Park of the Albufera.



Conclusions

Key topics

During the seminar there were some main points that were emphasized throughout all sessions, including the importance of Guide Documents that are being applied in different pilot river basins, and public participation as an essential part of the WFD implementation process.

European Network

Due to the necessity of implementing the European Water Framework Directive in many countries, during this conference participants decided to set up, within INBO's framework and without any other new structure, a "group of European basin organisations for implementing the WFD" (Europe-INBO), open to all other water bodies interested in the European Union and bordering countries wishing to be associated. This Group established as its main objective to facilitate the implementation of the WFD, and has agreed to meet again within 12 months and at least every time after each essential stage of the WFD implementation.

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Mediterranean Network of Basin Organisations - Regional Network of INBO -

INBO and the Regional Networks

The International Network of Basin Organisations (INBO) was established during the constitutive assembly in 1994 at Aix-les-Bains, France, by organisations whose common goal was to implement integrated basin water resources management. Currently, the Network counts with participation from 52 countries and more than 130 basin organisations as members. This Network also has 5 regional networks: Africa, Latin- America, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Network of the Mediterranean. The Transboundary rivers network, and the Network of European Basin Organisations for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive that has recently been established also belong to INBO.

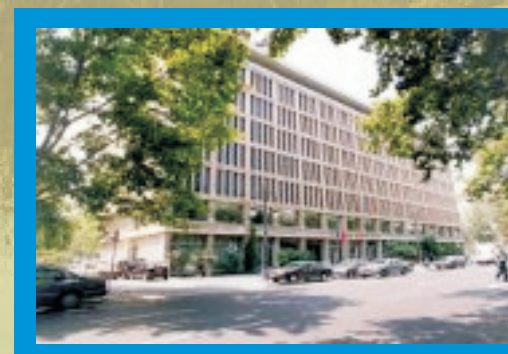
MENBO

MENBO is the Regional Network within INBO for the Mediterranean area. This Network was created in Madrid on November 3rd of 2002, from a constitutive assembly. The Permanent Technical Secretariat of this new regional network has been established with its head office in the Júcar Basin Authority, in Valencia, Spain and has institutional support from the Spanish Ministry of the Environment.

The Network is opened to all Mediterranean basin organisations, as well as to governmental administrations in charge of water management and bi and multilateral co-operation agencies that support related actions. MENBO promotes an integrated management of water resources as an essential tool for sustainable development and has the following general objectives:

- To strengthen relationships among INBO members that share a Mediterranean water culture
- To develop INBO group activities in this region
- To organize activities that have a regional interest

Up to date, the main activity developed by MENBO has been organising its General Assembly and an international conference (Water Days) in Valencia, on November of 2003.



1st General Assembly of MENBO International Seminar "Water Days"

VALENCIA, 10-13 November 2003



MENBO, jointly with the Júcar Basin Authority (Spanish Ministry of the Environment), the International Network of Basin Organisations, and the organisation Global Water Partnership-Med, organised its first international conference on water resources management in the Mediterranean area and the European Water Framework Directive (WFD). This conference had two main parts: the 1st General Assembly of MENBO and an international seminar on water management and the WFD. The conference took place in the city of Valencia, Spain, from the 10th to the 13th of November of 2003. The objectives of this conference were to promote the exchange of information on topics related to water management and to present MENBO as a new regional network of INBO.

Participants

A total of 140 people participated in the conference representing governmental administrations responsible for managing water resources, basin organizations and non-governmental organizations coming from Albania, Belgium, Estonia, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Macedonia, Morocco, Moldavia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Swiss, Ukraine, United Kingdom and the European commission.



Sessions and Presentations

General Assembly

During the first day the 1st General Assembly of MENBO took place, where topics directly related to INBO and the Global Water Partnership-Med were discussed. Also, the Azahar Program of the Spanish International Cooperation Agency was presented. During the Assembly the main positions of the Network were approved, as well as a final version of MENBO's statutes.



International Seminar

The International Seminar "Water Days" was developed by thematic sessions that included the following topics:



Inaugural Conference: **Hydrological Planning and the European Water Framework Directive in Spain**, by J.M. Aragonés, General Director of Hydraulic Works

- **Water resources planning in the Mediterranean region**
 - o Actions of INBO, MENBO, and GWP-Med
 - o The Euro-Mediterranean Information System (SEMIDE-EMWIS)
 - o Irrigation in the Mediterranean Region
 - o Non-conventional resources and demand management
 - o Integrated Management of transboundary rivers
 - o Water rights, and water management in the Júcar Basin
 - o Support systems to decision making in hydrological planning and management



- **Water Framework Directive**
 - o Implementation strategy, key points of the Water Framework Directive, and Guide Documents
 - o Identification of hydrological demarcations and characterisation of water bodies
 - o Good ecological status of water bodies. Analysis of pressures and impacts
 - o Economic aspects of the WFD and public participation
 - o Stakeholders of the WFD implementation in the Rhone-Mediterranee-Corse basin
- **Water Framework Directive Implementation**
 - o European Pilot River Basins: Ribble-United Kingdom, Tevere-Italy, Jucar-Spain
 - o WFD Application in new countries of the EU and candidate countries in central Europe, CEENBO (Network of Basin Organisations for Central and Eastern Europe)
 - o Water Management in Hungary and Albania
 - o Water Framework Directive Implementation in other European countries
- **Practical problems in basin organisations when implementing the WFD.**