



## **How the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management can support the implementation of the UNECE /WHO-EURO Protocol on Water and Health**

*A Side Event at the Second Session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol on Water and Health*

Date: Wednesday, 24 November 2010  
Time: 13.15- 14.45  
Venue: I.C. Bratianu Hall, Parliament House, Bucharest  
Languages: English/Russian with a simultaneous translation  
Organizer: UNECE Water Convention Secretariat

### ***Scope and aim of this side event***

The side event is aimed to demonstrate how the National Policy Dialogues on IWRM can support the implementation of the UNECE-WHO/EURO Protocol on Water and Health and in particular the process of setting targets and target dates and the targets implementation.

The National Policy Dialogues on water is the main operational instrument of the EU Water Initiative (EUWI), an international partnership that aims to contribute to the achievement of the water-related Millennium Development Goals. UNECE is the EUWI strategic partner responsible for coordination of National Policy Dialogues on integrated water resources management (IWRM) in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Implementation of the EUWI National Policy Dialogues on IWRM is supported in 2010–2012 by the European Commission and the Governments of Finland, Denmark and Switzerland and chaired by the Romanian Ministry of the Environment and Forestry.

The UNECE-supported policy dialogues provide practical assistance to strengthen IWRM in the countries of EECCA in line with the principles of the UNECE Water Convention, the UNECE – WHO/EURO Protocol on Water and Health, the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) and other EU and UN instruments. In a number of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, such as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, there is experience of NPDs on IWRM supporting setting and implementing targets under the Protocol within the framework of projects financed under the Protocol's Project Facilitation Mechanism. Discussions are ongoing under the NPDs and in the Project Facilitation Mechanism to create synergies between the NPDs and the national processes on setting and implementing the targets in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and other countries.

The side events will discuss lesson learned from countries where the link between the Protocol, the setting targets process and the NPDs has been established, as well as opportunities in other countries. Therefore, the side event will be an important milestone in developing approaches to further support implementation of the Protocol through NPDs.

**For more information on the EU Water Initiative NPDs IWRM, please visit:**  
[www.unece.org/env/water/npd](http://www.unece.org/env/water/npd).

## DRAFT AGENDA

**Side event Chair** – *Gheorghe Constantin, Chair of the EUWI EECCA and General Director of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of Romania*

Introduction by the EUWI EECCA Chair

Overview of the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on IWRM implementation in the EECCA countries – *Gulnara Roll, UNECE Secretariat*

Target setting under the Protocol and discussion on possibilities to support the process of setting targets and target dates under the Protocol and their achievements through the NPDs (5 min interventions)

- *Ms. Tamara Guvir, Deputy Head of Prevention of Environmental Pollution Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Moldova*
- *Mr. Mykhailo Tomakhin, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection of Ukraine (tbc)*
- *Mr. Chyngyzbek Uzakbaev, Deputy Chairman, Committee of Water Resources and Melioration of Kyrgyzstan*

Project facilitation mechanism under the UNECE – WHO/EURO Protocol on Water and Health and further opportunities for cooperation with the NPDs– *Carola Björklund, Government of Norway*

Discussion