

**Minutes of the First Steering Committee meeting of the EU Water Initiative National Water Policy Dialogue on integrated water resource management in Turkmenistan**

Ashgabat

2 April 2011

Representatives of Turkmenistan, Estonia, UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Europa House in Turkmenistan, other international organizations and donors participated in the first Steering Committee meeting.

**The participants of the meeting adopted the following agenda:**

1. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda
2. Information on the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogues on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
3. UNECE conventions as frameworks for promoting IWRM and transboundary cooperation
4. Review of the situation in the water sector of Turkmenistan and proposals for implementation of the IWRM principles
5. Information about projects and activities on water management in Central Asia and Turkmenistan
6. Conclusions of the first Steering Committee meeting.

**Finalizing the findings of the meeting**

The participants of the meeting made the following conclusions and recommendations on discussed items of the agenda:

1. To take note of the information about implementation of the National Policy Dialogues (NPD) on IWRM under the EU Water Initiative and mechanisms of support in the context of the UNECE Water Convention and EU Directives.
2. To take note of the information about the GIZ – German Agency for International Cooperation Transboundary Water Management in Central Asia Programme.
3. In order to increase effectiveness of coordination between ministries and authorities responsible for the water management in Turkmenistan to conduct a mapping of national and international organizations and projects in the framework of NPDs and to prepare a report for submission to the next Steering Committee meeting.
4. To take note of the information about activities under the multilateral UNECE conventions on environmental protection and support continuation of development of the regional project “Strengthening implementation of UNECE multilateral environmental agreements and enhancing transboundary cooperation in Central Asia”.
5. To take note of the information about EC IFAS initiative to support NPD in the countries of Central Asia in the framework of the EU Water Initiative.
6. To support work of the ministries and authorities of Turkmenistan on accession to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes.
7. To create an expert working group from representatives of the Cabinet of Ministers, Medjlis (Parliament), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finances, Ministry

of Economy and Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Water Economy, National Committee of Hydrometeorology, as well as UNECE international expert on legal affairs and assisting coordinator for organization of work of the group and preparation of the documents. The objective of the establishment of the group is analysis of needs in enhancement of legal and institutional bases in the context of implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, as well as development of the national plan of implementation of the Convention.

8. To hold a national seminar on IWRM in September-October 2011 to discuss prospects of cooperation under NPD, including development of the content of the pilot project on IWRM and selecting a region for implementation of such a project.
9. To review the possibility of holding seminars on IWRM on the regular basis, including on the topics of implementation of the basin management approach, UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health, adaptation to climate change.
10. To review the possibilities of development of the national programme on integrated water resources management under the direction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan and with active participation of the Ministry of Water Economy and other ministries and authorities.
11. To hold the second Steering Committee meeting in 2012.
12. To express gratitude to the Government of Germany, GIZ – German Agency for International Cooperation, the European Union and UNPD-office in Turkmenistan for support in organization of the Steering Committee meeting.

Chair

Ahmet Muhammedov