www.unece.org/index.php?id=25630

14 – 17 September 2010, Tbilisi – Georgia

The UNECE-led National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) started in Georgia with meetings of the UNECE Water Convention Secretariat representative at the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, other ministries, private companies, NGOs and international donor organizations involved in the water management in Georgia.

The National Policy Dialogues on IWRM programme assists governments of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in implementation of the IWRM in line with the principles of the UNECE Water Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the EU Water Framework Directive and other UNECE and European Union instruments. National water policy dialogues is the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative, an international partnership that aims at contributing to the achievement of the water related Millennium Development Goals.

Implementation of the EUWI National Policy Dialogues on IWRM is supported in 2010 – 2012 by the European Commission, governments of Finland, Denmark and Switzerland.

The National Policy Dialogue on IWRM in Georgia is focusing on three major topics: preparation of the National Water Law based on the IWRM principles; setting up the targets for implementation of the UNECE/WHO Protocol on Water and Health of the UNECE Water Convention; and the transboundary water cooperation with the neighbouring Azerbaijan.

Mr. George Zedginidze, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Georgia, welcomed the start of the National Policy Dialogue IWRM process and considered the programme as an important instrument in promoting the process of the water sector reforms in Georgia.

More information on the EU Water Initiative National Policy Dialogue on IWRM is available at the website www.unece.org/env/water/npd.html

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Note to Editors:

The UNECE-supported National Policy Dialogues on IWRM programme assist governments of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in promoting implementation of the IWRM in line with the principles of the UNECE Water Convention, the Protocol on Water and Health, the EU Water Framework Directive and other UNECE and European Union instruments.

National Policy Dialogues on IWRM are the main operational instrument of the European Union Water Initiative (EUWI), an international partnership that aims at contributing to the achievement of the water related Millennium Development Goals. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is the strategic partner to support the policy dialogue process on integrated water resources management. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is the strategic partner for water supply and sanitation.