

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON WATER

Dead Sea, Jordan, 22 December 2008

STATEMENT

Mr. Reuf Hadžibegić, Assistant Minister

Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

Excellencies,

Distinguish colleagues from International Community,

Ladies and Gentlemen

*The text should be checked  
against delivery*

I have honour and pleasure to greet you on behalf of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and would like to use this opportunity to express appreciation of my Delegation to the Kingdom of Jordan and co-presidency of Arab Republic Egypt and Republic France for the wonderful organisation of this respected conference and for all results achieved so far.

Water as essential necessity for life and development is one of primary question on which focusing human civilization in the last decade. This problem is specially emphasised in Mediterranean region. This conference is opportunity for analyzes similarities and differences in water management, protection natural sources, efficient water supply and many other open questions in the field of water and with help of experts from the institution responsible for this field to come to the constructive proposals. Especially important is to establish cooperation on the regional level having in mind that the countries of the same region has similar characteristics, problems and experiences as well as to define the direction of the common activity.

Water is one of the most important resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina and we make efforts to use it on the most appropriate way. Our Water Management Strategy treated segment of securing the water is especially important for necessity of population, agriculture and energy and for keeping water natural characteristic in purpose of the protection ecosystem and water protection.

Although is not member and has no obligation to apply regulation of European Union, Bosnia and Herzegovina take sides to harmonize its legislation with EU legislation in water sector in the first place with Water Framework Directive as essential regulation in water policy. Both entities adopted Water Law in which are incorporated key elements of Water Framework Directive and their implementation is in the course. Further activities will be focused on preparation secondary legislation, administrative and institutional strengthening responsible institutions, preparation Water Management Strategy and Action Plan and especially harmonization all documents with Directive of European Union.

When we speak about water sector it is not imaginable to mention its close binding with other fields as are agriculture, energy, environment etc. Aforementioned fields in case of Bosnia and Herzegovina in strategic point of view are crucial for its economic development. It is enough to mention energy resource which is used only in amount of 35% in the time when the most number of countries has long-term problems with supplying with electricity. Normally at bringing decision about future investments reflections on the fields as are water and environment protection sector will be in detail analyzed.

Special attention we attribute to the development of Water Management through membership in international Conventions (ICPDR and Sava), as well as in many regional initiative with aim to promote transboundary cooperation. Especially I would like to emphasise common activities with Republic of Croatia on Neretva and Trebisnjica Management Project that is key project for management the rivers which belong to the Mediterranean basin. In this project beside domestic will be included the sources of Global Environment Fund (GEF).

On the end I would like to emphasise great importance of today conference on the future of region with wish that common conclusions and initiatives contribute of future efficient solving the problems in the field of water. In addition I would like once again to thanks the host, Kingdom of Jordan, on excellent organization of this conference.

