



**Statement**  
**by H.E. Mr. Predrag Nenezić,**  
**Minister of Tourism and Environment of Montenegro**  
**at the Euro – Mediterranean Conference on Water**  
**Dead Sea, Jordan, 22 December 2008.**

*Check against delivery*

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me express my appreciation on behalf of the Government of Montenegro to the Co – Presidencies of Jordan, Egypt and France for inviting us to participate at the Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on Water. At the same time, I would like to convey regards to all the participants of the Conference believing that this event is an opportunity to recognize the priorities and perspectives of the entire Mediterranean region in order to be able to protect and provide sustainable management of water resources. Needless to say that it is a great honour to be a part of such an important gathering especially in a moment when Montenegro has obtained the membership in the Union for Mediterranean and submitted the application for the EU Membership.

As the ecological state, Montenegro attaches a particular attention to the protection of the nature and water resources which richness and quality represent one of its most important comparative advantages. Every country especially those situated in the karst regions, including Montenegro, are strongly challenged to prevent permanent consequences that could be caused by water pollution and inadequate water abstraction.

While streaming toward integration into EU, we are devoted to the efficient application of the measures aimed to provide water supplying, sanitation and integrated water resource management in order to support implementation of specific water and water-related environmental legislation. After a decade without investments to improve capacities of the systems for water supplying and waste water treatment, development of the national strategic documents to regulate water demand management are realized in the period 2005-2006, just in time to be in line with WSSD targets on water, MDGs and relevant CSD decisions. The most important objectives foreseen by these strategic documents are related to the construction of a regional coastal water supplying system by 2009 worth 70 million of euros and the realization of projects for waste waters treatment by 2018 through the allocations of 560 million of euros. The above said is especially important for the development of tourism sector, as the leading driver of national economy, strongly dependent on the availability of the adequate communal infrastructure. Being so, the water-related issues are placed on the top of the agenda of national environmental and water management policies.



In order to provide successful integration of Adriatic countries in the existing and future Euro-Med initiatives and projects, we find the Initiative Horizon 2020 for Depollution of the Mediterranean as a proper framework to consider the issues of relevance for pollution reduction, monitoring and research. Together with the projects related to water infrastructure, water services, water efficiency, private sector involvement and environmental standards, these are the priorities that have to be the subject of the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean. This is a reason for Montenegro to express strong support to the development of this long term strategy aimed to provide the guidelines to combat pollution and to provide sustainable management of water. Furthermore, as a party to the Barcelona Convention and UNFCCC, Montenegro also finds such defined Euro-Med priorities as a suitable framework to foster implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, as well as to address the impact of climate change in the Mediterranean region.

The progress in achieving our common goals is not possible without firm commitment for a prompt reaction by putting in place all relevant financial and policy development instruments. Only in such a way we could confront the challenges and dynamic changes we are facing with.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Water is life. Water is food. Water is energy.

In that sense, I wish the Conference Organisers and Participants every success in coordination of approaches in this vitally important area which determines the well-being of present and future generations.

Thank you for your attention.