

E A P TASK FORCE

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Background Paper on Implementing the Almaty Guiding Principles

Peter Börkey

Paris, 5-6th of June 2005

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Deadlines for comments

- **Deadline for written comments on the background and issues papers presented during the meeting: 30th of June**
- **Final versions of background and issues papers would be prepared and circulated by 16th September.**

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Objective of Paper

- To describe the situation in the EECCA water supply and sanitation sector
- To identify key areas where progress has been achieved, and where more efforts are needed

Structure of the paper

1. Executive Summary
2. Background and introduction
3. Current state of WSS sector in EECCA
 1. Key technical and financial performance indicators
 2. Situation in rural areas
 3. Public health impacts
 4. Environmental impacts
4. Legal and institutional reforms undertaken since Almaty
 1. Decentralisation
 2. Tariff setting
 3. Subsidies
 4. Collection rates
 5. Performance contracts
 6. PSP
 7. Public participation
5. Conclusions

Key Messages

- **EECCA has extensive water infrastructure, but services are continuously deteriorating**
- **Financial indicators show no improvement, with tariffs usually insufficient to cover operational costs**
- **Some positive signs in metering, per capita water consumption and collection rates**
- **There are no signs that deterioration would be slowing resulting in severe damage to human health, the environment and economic development**
- **While trends are the same, the situation is generally worse in poor EECCA and in small municipalities and rural areas**

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Key Messages Continued

- **Many countries have undertaken measures to improve water governance, most in line with Almaty Guiding Principles, i.e. measures:**
 - **To improve the coherence of institutional set-up for the water sector**
 - **To develop framework legislation to better guide local actors, particularly in setting tariffs legal and institutional frameworks**
- **A major area where reforms have been slow is at the local level and this is impeding positive effects from reforms at the central level**
- **There are, however, a number of positive examples and tools now available to support reforms at the local level**
- **The challenge is to find ways to scale-up this positive experience in order to achieve better water services**

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