

# EAP Task Force

**Document 30**

**Joint Meeting of the EU Water Initiative's EECCA  
Working Group and the EAP Task Force Environmental Finance  
and Water Networks**

*29 March –1 April 2005, Chisinau, Moldova*

**Strategic Partnership on Water for Sustainable  
Development  
EECCA – Component of the EU Water Initiative  
Terms of Reference for the EUWI-EECCA Working  
Group**

*ACTION REQUIRED: for approval and endorsement*

## 1. Background

The organisational framework of the EUWI is based upon four main bodies:

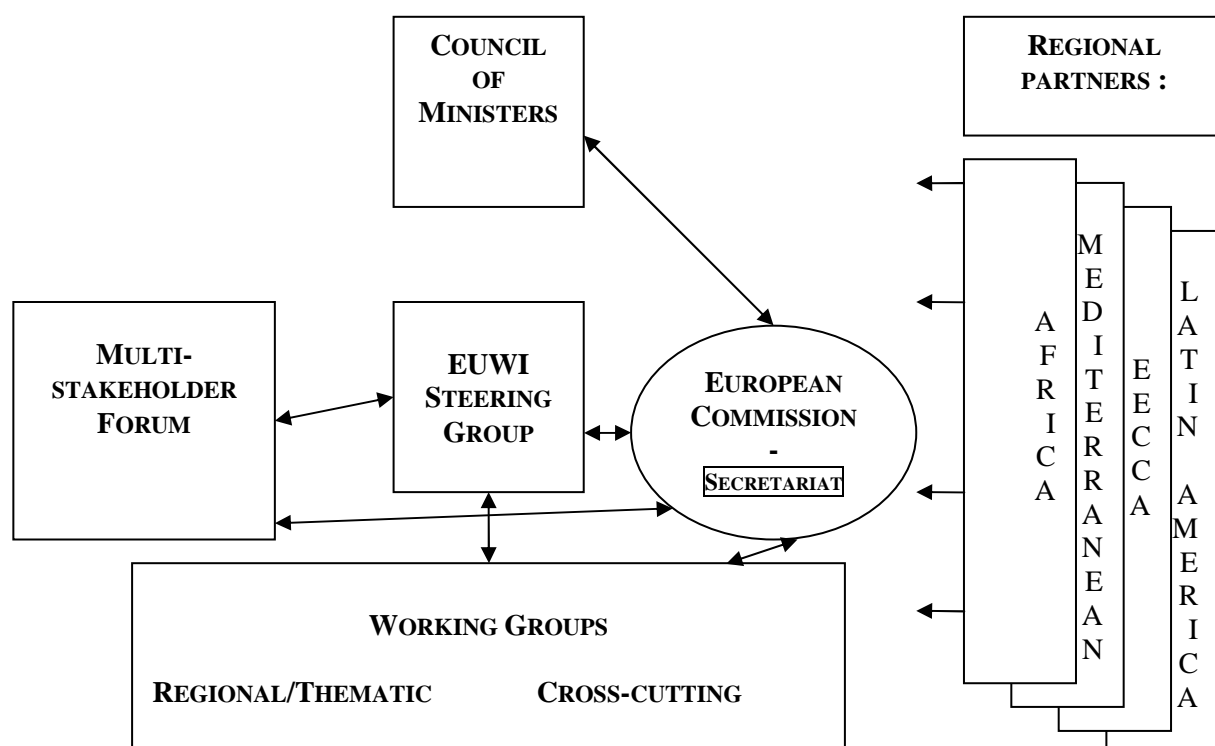
- The multistakeholder forum, open to all, with an advisory function
- The EUWI Steering Group, driver of the EUWI, with a coordination function
- The Working Groups, overseeing implementation at the regional level
- The Commission/Secretariat of the initiative, with a facilitating and supporting function.

Thus, the Working Group of the EECCA component of the EU Water Initiative (in the following “the Working Group”) is part of the formal governance structure of the Initiative. This structure is further described in a document outlining the organisational framework of the EUWI<sup>1</sup>.

Furthermore, the EECCA component is considered by the Environment for Europe process as the key mechanism for implementation of the EECCA Environment Strategy on water related aspects.

## 2. Organisational overview

According to the above-mentioned document the governance structure of EUWI is the following:



<sup>1</sup> "Organisational Framework and Modalities", Final version (9 July 2004), by the EU Commission

Within the EECCA component a “High Level Meeting” structure is established. This is an amalgamation of the multistakeholder forum and the steering group at the regional level.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

The Working Group, building on the work of existing mechanisms, is responsible for overseeing implementation of the regional activities of the EUWI for Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA), through:

- designing and providing overall support for the EECCA component of the EUWI (this includes preparation of periodical action programmes and financial strategies, and identifying measures needed for their implementation, based on analytical and assessment reports);
- setting priorities for action;
- promoting and facilitating action toward achieving the objectives of the EUWI EECCA component, notably through promoting implementation of the action programme;
- offering a platform for dialogue and for the co-ordination of the work of various partners and enable links between stakeholders (partners, countries, governments, local authorities, private sector and civil society, etc);
- building trust among diverse stakeholders to enable better coordinated action at local, sub-regional and regional levels;
- reporting and, as appropriate, making recommendations to the multistakeholder forum, the EUWI Steering Group, the High-Level Meeting, and the EAP Task Force, in its capacity as the Intergovernmental Coordination body for the EECCA Environment Strategy.

After preparation of Action Programmes and priority projects by the Working Group, the High-Level Meeting will approve the Work Programmes, to be later endorsed by the EUWI Steering Group. The EUWI Steering Group will also approve ToR of the Working Group.

### **Composition of Working Group**

Membership of the Working Group is open to all interested parties (institutional – not individuals), but members should be prepared to contribute actively to the development and implementation of the Initiative in the EECCA region, and to participate actively in meetings and other activities of the Working Group. Partners wanting to become members of the Working Group should indicate their interest to the lead country/organisation. Preferably, partners should nominate one person and an alternate to participate in Working Groups activities in order to maintain efficiency.

One country or organisation from the EU and one country or organisation from the EECCA will jointly act as lead countries/organisations of the EECCA component and the Working Group. The lead countries/organisations will provide the necessary resources for assisting in the day-to-day management of the component.

**Meeting structure**

The Working Group will meet approximately 2 times per year depending on actual need. The lead countries/organisations will call and chair Working Group meetings.

Once per year a “High-Level Meeting” (HLM) will be held. The HLM acts as a forum for policy dialogue, an advisory body and an approval mechanism on Action Programmes. The HLM is a broad stakeholder forum with representation from the highest decision-making levels, professional experts, private sector, NGO’s, etc.

The Working Group will prepare periodical Action Programmes and report on progress to the HLM, and may seek the opinion and advice of the HLM on certain issues. The Working Group will be responsible for preparing HLMs.

The official language of Working Group meetings is English. To the extent possible and depending on means available, the lead countries/organisations shall provide translation of key documents to and from Russian. This shall be announced when calling the meeting.

**Financial issues**

Each partner of the EUWI will be expected to provide its own resources to support its involvement in the EUWI. The need for financial assistance to support administrative costs, notably adequate participation by EECCA partners, will be identified in the annual Action Programme. This support will be provided by the European Commission, EU Member States and possibly also other partners (e.g. Norway, Switzerland, EIB, IFIs, other international organisations active in the development of the component, water operators, etc.).