



**COUNCIL OF
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NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: delegations

Subject: Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Water
(Jordan, 22 December 2008)

Delegations will find attached a Presidency information note on the above conference, which will be considered by the Environment Council under "Other business" at its meeting on 4 December 2008.

Information Note**Preparation for the Euro-Mediterranean Conference of Ministers for Water
(Jordan, 22 December 2008)***Information on the Ministerial Conference*

In November 2007 Euro-Mediterranean Foreign Ministers included a ministerial conference on water in the partnership's work programme for 2008. On 13 July 2008 the Paris Summit confirmed that the Union for the Mediterranean would make water a priority.

The Ministerial Conference on Water will take place on 22 December 2008 on the shores of the Dead Sea; it will be co-chaired by France and Egypt, co-Presidents of the Union for the Mediterranean, and by Jordan, the host country.

The Ministerial Conference, initially scheduled for 29 October 2008, was deferred by the Jordanian Government. A compromise was reached on 3 and 4 November, and the three co-Chairs together with the European Commission rescheduled the Conference for 22 December 2008.

A draft declaration, due to be finalised by senior officials on the eve of the Ministerial Conference, has already been drawn up on the basis of texts approved by the 27 Member States at the Competitiveness Council meeting on 26 September and the Environment Council meeting on 20 October 2008 and of the partner countries' initial comments.

The draft declaration focuses on:

1. developing a Mediterranean water strategy addressing both the quantity and quality of water;
2. implementing a follow-up mechanism;
3. priority activities for the selection of concrete projects to be taken forward by the Union for the Mediterranean.

The draft declaration is accompanied by an illustrative list of projects which could fall within the scope of the Union for the Mediterranean. The list is based on proposals by our partners and proposals by France.

The Ministerial Conference will be preceded, on 21 December, by a meeting of civil society and parallel events.
