



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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NOTE

from: General Secretariat
to: Delegations

Subject: The "Budapest Water Summit" (8-11 October 2013)
- Information from the Hungarian delegation

Delegations will find in Annex an information note from the Hungarian delegation on the above-mentioned subject, which will be dealt with under "other business" at the Council (Environment) meeting on 18 June 2013.

**The "Budapest Water Summit"
(8-11 October 2013)**

- Information from the Hungarian delegation -

To move forward the post-Rio water agenda, in Rio de Janeiro Hungary announced its intention to organise an international conference in 2013 in Budapest. The 2013 Budapest Water Summit forms part of the events of the UN International Year of Water Cooperation led by UNESCO.

The Budapest Water Summit is envisaged as a policy forum to facilitate consensus building amongst stakeholders on sustainable development policy goals for water and sanitation. As the Summit aims to formulate concrete recommendations for the UN General Assembly to contribute to the post-2015 development agenda, it must bridge political, scientific and technical aspects of the water and sanitation-related SDGs.

In terms of structure, it should serve as an open policy forum for all stakeholders involved in shaping the global post-2015 agenda.

The Summit will address the following broad areas:

- Striving for universal access to water and sanitation;
- Integrated water resources management for the 21st century;
- Good water governance;
- Green economy for blue water;
- Financing of water-related development goals.

The conference topics will be discussed in *five* thematic sessions and a special evening session. Each thematic session will be introduced by three keynote speakers from a developing country, a developed country and an international organisation/NGO. Keynote addresses will be followed by moderated Davos-type discussions by distinguished panellists with balanced geographical and gender representation. The conclusions of each thematic session will be summarised by a rapporteur who will present the relevant findings to the closing plenary session. The closing joint plenary will adopt the recommendations.

In parallel to the plenary, stakeholder meetings will be held in the form of a Science Forum, a Youth Forum and a Civil Society Forum, a Business Leaders Forum and Expo, and a Philanthropy Roundtable.

The Budapest Water Summit attempts to cover these issues in a complex, interdisciplinary, interconnected yet practical manner, combining policy, scientific, financial, economic as well as governmental and non-governmental approaches and inputs. The outcome document - the *Budapest Recommendations on Water and Sanitation* - will identify concrete water-related building blocks of a possible “Big Water SDG” to be incorporated into the future SMART (Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic and Timely) SDGs as well as into the post-2015 development agenda.

The Summit aims, in particular, to build on the conclusions of the 6th World Water Forum, held in Marseille, France in March 2012, the proceedings of the World Water Day events in March 2013 held in The Hague, The Netherlands, the Conference on International Water Cooperation to be held in August in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, the Stockholm World Water Week to be held in September 2013 and the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly. The Summit will formulate its conclusions with a view to providing contributions to the 7th World Water Forum to be held in Daegu, Republic of Korea in 2015.

The Summit website: www.budapestwatersummit.hu
