



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 9 October 2013  
(OR. en)**

**14560/13**

**ENV 907**

**NOTE**

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| From:    | General Secretariat of the Council              |
| To:      | Delegations                                     |
| Subject: | The "Budapest Water Summit" (8-11 October 2013) |
|          | - Information from the Hungarian delegation     |

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Delegations 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 14 October 2013.

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

With the Budapest Water Summit Hungary initiates and offers for the international community the opportunity to take stock of the various developments, in and outside the UN system, in preparing water-related goals for the post Rio+20 development agenda. The number of the expected participants will be more than 1300, among other dignitaries from worldwide, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Irina Bokova, Director General of the UNESCO, Lamberto Zannier, Secretary General of the OSCE, José Graziano da Silva, Director General of the FAO, Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, Michel Jarraud Chair of UN-Water and Secretary General of WMO is participating. On the margin of the BWS the event will host the China-EU Water Platform High Level meeting, the Board meeting of the World Water Council and the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the UNSGAB, the UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation.

The Budapest Water Summit aims to synthesise – in the “Budapest Recommendation, a Sustainable World is a Water Secure World” – the various discussions that take place in the run-up and the aftermath of Rio on water (Paris, Geneva, Hague, Dushanbe, Stockholm). The starting point is the UN-led Post 2015 Water Thematic Consultation and the various relevant international declarations.

The draft Budapest Recommendation - which is open for discussion - agrees that WASH must remain the key target of an SDG, the target should be universal access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation, and coverage should be extended to schools, hospitals, major public institutions. Improvements in waste water treatment are fundamental requirement to safeguard the very source of drinking water provision and the ecological qualities of all water bodies. Integrated water resources management should be used as an approach and toolbox to reconcile competing human and natural water demands with existing resources should be a main component of water policy.

At the same time the Budapest Water Statement goes further in emphasising the role of water-related risks in integrated water resources management, the importance of governance (both national and transboundary), administrative capacity building, training and education.

Economic fundamentals of sustainable and integrated water resources management shall be emphasized, including mainstreaming of water policy considerations in economic planning and regulation, the role of water-related investments in job creation and economic development, economic incentives (including removal of harmful subsidies), recognition of the value of ecological services and natural infrastructure, and use of modern and traditional technology to improve water efficiency, reuse, recycling.

The Hungarian delegation will present the final version of the Budapest Recommendation, which will be adopted on 11 October at the Budapest Water Summit.

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