



Council of the
European Union

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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations

Subject: Budapest Water Summit 2016 (Budapest, 28 - 30 November 2016)
- Information from the Hungarian delegation

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 19 December 2016.

Budapest Water Summit 2016 (Budapest, 28 - 30 November 2016)

- Information from the Hungarian delegation -

The Budapest Water Summit 2016, under the patronage of Mr János Áder, President of Hungary, served as a strategic platform to link political decision-makers closer to technology development, financing and public perceptions.

The event also had the goal to give momentum to the practical implementation of sustainable development goals adopted for the period of 2015 to 2030 and the COP 21 Paris Climate Agreement in terms of water management including the institutional framework reforms as necessary.

More than 2 600 people participated from 117 countries during the three-day event, including heads of state and government, ministers, the President of the UN General Assembly and several UN high-level representatives.

The High-Level Panel on Water held its meeting in Budapest with the participation of nine multilateral development banks, with the focus on the vital challenge of financing the world's water infrastructure needs.

The thematic plenary sessions of the Summit with keynote participants discussed issues in the framework of six panels concerning the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals related to water (SDG 6). Each thematic session was introduced by three keynote speeches which were followed by moderated 'Davos-style' discussions. As part of the Summit, a Sustainable Water Solutions Expo was also organised.

Regarding the final document of the Summit, after several rounds of discussions, the Drafting Group of the Budapest Water Summit 2016 has developed a draft paper through online exchanges and a preparatory meeting in July in the city of Tihany, Hungary. This closing document of the Summit, the Budapest Water Summit 2016 Messages, states that water is not only the most critical natural asset, but also is an enabler and an inter-connector. At the same time, the document stresses that the increased water-related vulnerability and insecurity of populations worldwide demands an urgent response. It clearly points out that acting now is a matter of human dignity, justice and survival.

In order to give concrete and pragmatic solutions to challenges related to water, the closing document identified a broad and comprehensive set of actions:

- Promote the SDGs' water-related targets to foster ownership by governments and water stakeholders and ensure that SDGs are translated into national and local action plans;
- Ensure and enhance women's real involvement in all phases of water management to ensure the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Increase coherence across water-related policies through sound legislation, regulation, institutional arrangements, enforcement, integrity and transparency;
- Develop a mechanism/partnership to support youth initiatives;
- Recognise the need for an appropriate intergovernmental platform on water and sanitation as a follow-up to the suggestions of the BWS 2013 outcomes.

As an annex to the Messages, the Budapest Water Summit 2016 Policy Recommendations have also been outlined, covering all the thematic areas which are directly or indirectly related to water.