

Athens, 11 September 2014

Re: Invitation to the 1st Regional Conference on Governance and Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector

Dear Madam/Sir,

We are pleased to invite you to the 1st Regional Conference of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) labelled project *Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector*¹ to be held on 28-30 October 2014, in Athens, Greece, in close collaboration with the EU funded *Sustainable Water Integrated Management - Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)* project².

The Conference aims to reinforce the regional dialogue, set off during the Launching of the UfM project in May 2013, and the sharing of experiences on the water governance and sustainable financing nexus by bringing together targeted Mediterranean stakeholders from within and outside the water sector, including public authorities, civil society and the private sector. Important for launching the implementation of this regional project has been the strategic partnership with the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) and the European Investment Bank (EIB). The steady support, already since 2009, of the GEF/ MAP UNEP MedPartnership programme and the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) has been instrumental for concretising the project's line of work.

The Conference will take stock of the outcomes from the Water Policy Dialogues conducted in Jordan and Tunisia during the first year of the UfM project's implementation (2013-2014) and will discuss the way forward for the second year. Moreover, the Conference will benefit from completed and ongoing work on the theme conducted by SWIM-SM, especially in view of the programme's completion (Dec. 2014) and the potential next phase of work.

Synergies with the ongoing work of other actors in the region will be reviewed so as to strengthen the impact and outreach of results on sustainable financing of water infrastructure, including through private sector participation.

We look forward to your positive reply and in the meantime we remain at your disposal for any clarification or additional information. Please do not hesitate to contact us at secretariat@gwpmmed.org.

Yours sincerely,



Prof. Michael Scoullos
Chairman
Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med)
On behalf of the implementers of the Project *Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector*



Prof. Hosny Khordagui
Team Leader
Sustainable Water Integrated Management -Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM)
Project funded by the European Union

¹ The *Governance & Financing for the Mediterranean Water Sector* project (mid 2013 – mid 2016) officially labelled under the UfM in July 2012 – was launched on 28-29 May 2013 at the UfM headquarters, in Barcelona, Spain. It is implemented jointly by the Global Water Partnership-Mediterranean (GWP-Med) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) for the regional component, and the support of the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the GEF MedPartnership programme for targeted and time-bound parts of the national component. The project is carried out in synergy with the Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative (MED EUWI) that together with the MedPartnership set the ground for this project with work completed in previous years.

² *Sustainable Water Integrated Management* (2010-2014) is a Regional Technical Assistance Programme of the European Commission that aims to contribute to the extensive dissemination and effective implementation of sustainable water management policies and practices in the Southern Mediterranean Region. SWIM – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM) is the Component of the Programme that provides Regional Technical Assistance to Partner Countries.