



Speech of Mr. Guy FRADIN,

Vice-President of the International Forum Committee
Opening of the preparatory meeting of the parliamentary political process
for the 6th World Water Forum Marseille 2012

Strasbourg, 10th June 2011

Thank you Mr President Papadimoulis, I thank you for your warm and hospitable welcome here in Strasbourg, Mr and Mrs Ministers, dear parliamentarians, dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for coming and for having replied to the joint invitation from the International Forum Committee and from the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to this preparatory meeting of the parliamentary political process of the 6th World Water Forum in Marseille, 2012.

I would like to begin by presenting you the apologies of Benedito Braga, Chair of the International Forum Committee; our Brazilian colleague who is not able to participate in this meeting as a result of his multiple commitments both professional and those brought upon him by the organization of the Forum.

The 6th Forum which France has the pleasure and the honor of organizing and for which we are counting effectively and heavily upon all the water stakeholders, and parliamentarians in particular, is going to be the Forum of Solutions for water.

It is the ambition of this 6th forum to position itself very concretely on proposals, commitments and the implementation of solutions.

If solutions have already been to a large extent identified or implemented, it's time to move on to concrete action.

One of the goals of our meeting today, during the months which separate us from the Forum, is on the one hand, that parliamentarians get involved in the preparation of the Forum and on the other hand, that their buy-in is sufficiently secured towards the key issues of the Forum.



As parliamentarians, you are responsible for the adoption of laws, national budgets and the ratification of treaties and conventions in your own countries. It means this political segment is crucial is the the preparation of the Parliamentary Process for the World Water Forum, which was created in order to give a greater voice to parliamentarians in the global debate on water, and to prepare contributions on a series of key issues such as transboundary waters, adaptation to global changes, and the right to water. In particular, the creation of a “Water Legislation Helpdesk” for the development of appropriate legal frameworks on water must be discussed.

This is today the preparatory meeting of the Parliamentary process, a process which is an intrinsic part of what we refer to as the political process; and in this respect I greet the presence of Philippe Lacoste who is here with us and who is the Chair of our Political Commission, therefore charged with coordinating this process, which both covers the governmental process, the ministerial process, the parliamentary process and the process of these local authorities.

As I was saying, it is of great importance that you, Parliamentarians, be deeply involved in the preparation of this Forum. This process was born of the Forum in Mexico City, it matured at the Istanbul Forum, and our prime ambition, as I have said, is to take several steps forward in the involvement and implementation of solutions thanks to your proposals and your decision to commit. During the 9 months of preparation, you will be called upon of course to work, to exchange your experiences, to make proposals according to a route map on which we have proposals to make to you and for which you should before the end of this meeting make complementary proposals to enrich it.

This will mean that during the coming 9 months we shall all be able to follow this route map perfectly operationally and arrive at the Marseille Forum with the concrete translation of this very route map. As I said also, it is because you are Parliamentarians also that you will be able to make commitments at the political level. We shall ensure and you along with us will ensure that this Parliamentary process will take place in perfect interaction with the other thematic processes, that goes without saying, but also in the context of the political process in order that the all the political decision-makers in our countries act consistently and concertedly.

Yes, it is here and now in this very first meeting that you will also be expected to ponder over and make the first proposals on the messages which should be or may be delivered by you as a whole and by this local authority process. It is for this reason that you have been invited for this day and a half's



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work, which I am sure will be fruitful and I thank you for having been so numerous to respond to our appeal.

Thank you for your attention.