

***WATER IN EUROPEAN REGIONS
ENCORE WORKING GROUP ON WATER***

Dear Sir or Madam,

Last June 2006 the 7th Environmental Conference of the European Regions (ENCORE) took place in Åre, Sweden. This Conference set the Åre Action Plan, ruling ENCORE activities for the period 2006-2008. Among others, the Åre Action Plan settled the establishment of five working groups on different matters regarding environment and sustainable development.

The Spanish region of Aragón is proud to lead the Working Group on Water and to invite your region to participate in this interesting project.

The main working lines for the Working Group on Water are the following:

- Integrated river basin management.
 - Administrative organization and decision structures of the hydrographic demarcation
 - Strains and strategies among users and sectors (energetic, agricultural, industrial, domestic, recreational...) within a hydrographic basin.
- Public participation.
- Water related services cost recovery.
- Water Quality management:
 - Superficial water.
 - Groundwater.
 - Pollution (punctual/diffuse).

A questionnaire containing all these points will be distributed among the regions willing to participate in this Working Group.

The main aim of the Working Group on Water is to analyze the regional experiences within Europe in water issues and draw a European regional map showing resemblances and differences, regional particularities and diverse approach policies to the matter.

The Working Group is an excellent opportunity not only to establish new relations among the European regions but also to share experiences or best-practices and start-up or consolidate regional cooperation.

The importance of water is evident as water is one of the prime elements responsible for life on earth. In the XXI century, the great challenge towards water is without any doubt its management, quality and supply guarantee.

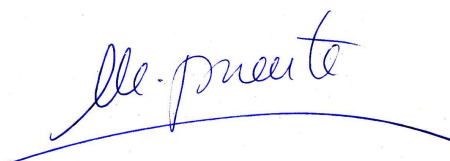
The role of regions in the process of implementing water policies and measures is extremely important and their experiences are useful both for other regions and for the EU institutions.

For all the above, we would like to encourage the European regions to participate in this survey, whose results will show the situation of water management in the European regions and will be presented in the next ENCORE Conference, taking place in Zaragoza (Spain) 26th and 27th June 2008.

Should you be willing to participate in the Working Group on Water, please inform us a.s.a.p. about the contact details (see attached form) of the people appointed for water issues within your regional Government. We will shortly get in touch with them in order to start the work.

Please do not hesitate to contact us via e-mail or telephone if you require any further information.

Hoping to work with you,



Marta Puente
International Centre for Water and Environment Director

