

ENCORE WORKING GROUP ON WATER- 2009&2010 INVITATION TO JOIN THE GROUP

Dear colleagues,

The Ministry for the Environment of the Government of Aragon (Spain) is pleased to contact you as leader of **ENCORE's Water Working Group** in order to **invite you to join us** in our efforts to assess water policies in Europe, the EU Water Framework Directive implementation and the important role that regions play both in water management and implementation of EU water regulations. Indeed, European regions implement the two third parts of the EU regulations and their situation, being the closest governing entity to citizens and to the tackled issues, makes them a very important actor in environmental issues, whose outputs and experiences should be taken in account.

As you know, ENCORE-Environmental Conference of the European Regions- was created in 1993: ENCORE is the only environmental platform for regional ministers and political leaders in the European Union. The objective of ENCORE is to foster cooperation among regions in environmental issues on a political level, as well as to exchange good practices and experiences. Thanks to ENCORE, the regional environment ministers of the EU meet every two years at summits that take on the form of conferences. One or more specific environmental issues are discussed at each of these conferences, such as the case of ENCORE Zaragoza (Aragon) 2008 *Water and Climate Change*.

At last ENCORE Conference in Zaragoza, the Water Working Group presented it's results in a document that dealt with integrated basin management; participation of the public and of the stakeholders in water management and planning; cost recuperation of water-related services and "the polluter pays" principle; and water quality management. As well, a document gathering all these achievements has been published.

Next ENCORE Conference 2010 will be held in Olsztyn (Warmia-Mazury) assessing the issues *Climate Change and Biodiversity*. The results of the Working Group on Water will be presented at ENCORE Conference 2010 by the members of the Working Group. As well, the results will be published and sent to EU relevant institutions as well as other interested organizations.

We are now planning the work of the Water Working Group and we would be most happy to **count with your region in our efforts**. Should you wish to participate in ENCORE's Working Group on Water, please **contact us before 15th September**, date when the members of the Group will start discussing the design of the work that the Water Working Group will develop.

We look forward to hearing from you and hope to count with your contribution to the Working Group!

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