



EUROPEAN UNION
European Union Delegation to
Egypt

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Press Release

European Union Continuing support for Water and Wastewater Sector in Egypt

Alexandria – The Delegation of the European Union to Egypt co-hosted an event with Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI) under the title: "Water Facing the Water Scarcity, Existing challenges and opportunities". The main fields of discussion during the event are: joint integrated investment planning in water sector, improved practices in water resources management, master planning the irrigation and drainage network for more efficient use of water resources and role of water awareness in changing water use habits and water saving.

Mr. Diego Escalona and the Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation Hossam Moghazy, attended the opening ceremony of the Second EU Water Talk on September 15th in Alexandria. An overall summary and future activities were demonstrated during the sessions where 150 experts, academics, senior civil officials and project managers from Donor Agencies have participated.

Ambassador James Moran, Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Egypt said: "I firmly believe that water holds the key to sustainable development." Moran described the EU Egypt cooperation in the water sector as: "The EU Egypt cooperation in the water sector stretches over a wide portfolio of programmes covering 9 Egyptian Governorates and total direct Grant funds of nearly €**300** million in six different programmes.

The EU has supported overall institutional reform and sector reform through the two phases of the Water Sector Reform program with an overall budget of €**200** million as a direct grant disbursed to National Treasury in exchange of agreed upon reform benchmarks in the sector.

The first EU Egypt Water Talk event was held in Cairo After the successful implementation of the First EU-EGYUPT Water Talks event in Cairo, the second event of EU-EGYPT Water Talks is being held in Alexandria at Hilton Corniche 14-15 September 2014. The Second Event co-hosted with Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (MWRI). The event Title is "EU-Egypt Water Talks; "Water Facing the Water Scarcity, Existing challenges and opportunities ".

Background Information:

EU Egypt Water Talks are funded by the Water Sector Reform Programme-II (WSRP-II). Following the success of WSRP- Phase I of total Grant € **80 million**, both the Government of Egypt and the European Commission agreed to allocate an additional grant of € **120 million** as phase two of Egypt's WSRP (WSRP-II) to take place between 2011 and 2015 to be disbursed on the basis of a new set of jointly agreed reform benchmarks. The beneficiary line ministries/institutions are the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, the Ministry of Housing and Urban development, the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater and the Ministry of Finance. The overall objective of the WSRP-II is to support the Egyptian government in its reform programme of the water sector in accordance with the objectives of the National Water Resource Plan 2005-2017 (NWRP 2005-2017), and of the recently adopted Water and Wastewater Sector Development Policy (WWSDP).

The overall budget is 120 Million EUR of which 10 Million EUR (as a technical assistance to line ministries)

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