



DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



**Introductory remarks delivered by Ambassador Aurélia Bouchez,
Head of the European Union Delegation to Kazakhstan
at the workshop "Water Resource Management: "Green" Scenario of Actions
at the Green Academy**

Astana, 14 August 2013

Dear Minister, distinguished participants of the workshop!

I would like to thank you for the invitation today to address this workshop in the newly established "Green Academy".

The EU values very much Kazakhstan's landmark decision on transit to "green economy", which reflects the concrete follow-up steps towards shaping the sustainable future.

Green economy will be effective and sustainable only if we reach out to the various stakeholders. In this context, we need to train and explain. Therefore I believe that "Green academy", together with other specialised institutions; can play an important role in this process. I wish you all success in your future endeavours.

Water management and environmental sustainability is one of the key priorities of EU Strategy in Central Asia. Such EU approach is based on our experience in water management and the understanding that a "green economy" is unconceivable without a strong emphasis on water policies.

Water is also a particular challenge in this Region that has important security implications.

During the last decade the EU have allocated almost 75 million Euro to more than 70 projects tackling water and environmental issues in Kazakhstan and Central Asia.

The purpose of this support is to generate a more coherent, efficient and better targeted action to address water-related challenges linked to safe water supply, sanitation, transboundary river basin management, and the introduction of techniques for a more efficient water use in irrigation and energy production.

Just to mention a few ongoing EU water related initiatives. Last year, the European Union has successfully launched a national policy dialogue with Kazakhstan on water, which is implemented by UNECE and OECD.

A number of activities on environmental governance, climate change and sustainable water management, including the EU-Central Asia Water and Environmental Platform are being implemented under the current EU Regional Environmental Programme for Central Asia (EURECA).

Other EU-funded actions address different sectors of Kazakhstan's GE policy such as INOGATE, IFCA, and Renewable Energy/Energy Saving / Energy Efficiency and Covenant of Mayors. Thus, the proposed action will be complemented by a number of ongoing activities, with which important synergies will be generated.

Education and awareness raising play a central role in the EU projects. I would specifically mention few examples of the EU recent activities in the fields of environment and water management:

In the framework of the project "Water Management and Basin Organisations in Central Asia (WMBOCA)" in May 2013 a study tour to Spain and Portugal was organized for the national experts from Kazakhstan and other CA countries. The participants were provided with practical field exposure to river basin management for rivers, which are used for irrigation, hydropower production and also for drinking water supply. The visit concentrated on getting first-hand information from different levels of national water resources management.

In the framework of the "Environmental awareness raising programme (AWARE), implemented by CAREC, "Green Pack for Central Asia" was developed. It is a new multimedia educational resource and awareness instrument, in particular to promote the theme of "Water and Water Resources" in the secondary schools and improving the capacity of teachers and trainers in Central Asia.

I would also like to mention another interesting initiative of this project – creation of Green Business Club, which is currently under elaboration.

The project has also launched the call for proposals from the business structures, who is using green technologies. The competition is open until September in four categories: 1 – water use; 2 – waste utilisation; 3 – energy efficiency; 4- "Green office".

By concluding, I would like to underline that the EU will continue its support to the efforts Kazakhstan on improving the environmental governance and water management.

Next year we are planning to launch a new project to support transition of Kazakhstan to "green" economy. On the basis of extensive analyses of risks and opportunities, this project will contribute to the implementation of Kazakhstan's Green Economy strategy with a particular focus on (i) the water sector, (ii) the government's environmental/climate change governance and (iii) achieving quick-win highly visible concrete results through pilot actions.

Thank you very much for your attention. Today in the afternoon, you will hear more specific presentation on integrated management of water resources by one of the EU project experts A. Krutov.

I wish you a very successful continuation of the workshop.