



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA TUTELA DEL TERRITORIO E DEL MARE

Opportunities for Strengthening Central Asian –EU Cooperation on Climate Change

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Summary

- **EU Strategy for a New Partnership in CA**
- **The Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation**
- **Platforms' Pillars**
- **Italian initiatives for multilateral and bilateral Cooperation**



EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia

In 2007 the EU launched the “Strategy for the New Partnership with CA Countries” for the period 2007 – 2013

○ Financing

Strategy has been financed by the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) - 750 mnl Euro for the period 2007 – 2013

○ Implementation Instruments

- PCA
- Trade and Cooperation Agreements
- EC Regional Assistance Strategy Paper 2007-2013



EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia

Cooperation fields

- Human rights, rule of law, good governance and democracy
- Education
- Economic Development
- Trade and Investment
- Energy and Transport
- Intercultural dialogue
- Environmental Policy

Environment and Water : Responsible Institutions

- Italian Ministry for Environment Land and Sea
- Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- EU Commission



Environment and Water

Lines to take on Water

- Promoting EECCA (Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia)
- Promoting transboundary management of water sources (Caspian Sea Convention)
- Support to the integrated management of ground basins and surface waters
- Promote investments on sustainable water management

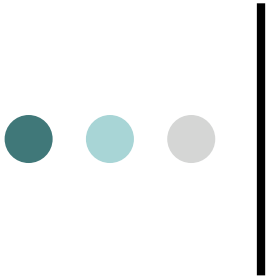
Lines to take on Climate Changes

- Compliance with the objective of the Kyoto Protocol
- Action against desertification and biodiversity protection
- Involvement of civil society (through Central Asia Regional Environmental Centre initiative)



Environmental Policy – Progresses Report

- First Joint Progress Report (2008) on the implementation of the EU CA
- It noted good progress in several fields:
 - ☞ Political dialogue
 - ☞ National Water Policy Dialogues launched in CA for the first time, in Kyrgyzstan (2008) to promote water management; similar dialogues launched in Tajikistan and Turkmenistan in the course of 2010
 - ☞ Promotion of business development and Small & Medium Enterprises, i.e. the Central Asia Invest Programme



The Roadmap to the Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation

- In 2008, the **Second EU – CA High Level Conference on Environment** in Ashgabat discussed Environment and Water management and presented the concept of the “Platform for Environment and Water Cooperation”
- In 2009, in the **Third High - Level Conference on Environment** in Rome the Platform has been established
- The Platform is driven by a shared commitment to develop a *long-term partnership* on the basis of political and economic common objectives
- The Platform constitutes a *framework for the implementation of the environment and water pillar of the “EU Strategy for Central Asia*



Platform's Pillars

Platform's objective

To share experiences and expertise to support the Republics of CA to develop an efficient and integrated management of natural resources





I. Environmental Governance

Governance is a key issue in tackling environmental and resource challenges

Actions

- Assist CA Countries in decision-making process
- Put environmental integration into practice implies the implementation of all relevant legally binding instruments



II. Climate Change

The Pillar is based on the recognition that Global CC poses serious threats to the CA environment

Actions

- Cooperation in PAMs to curb GHGs
- Lowering CO2 intensity of CA economies
- Promote energy efficiency and saving, renewable and alternative energies and low-carbon technologies
- Rational, efficient and sustainable use of hydraulic, hydro-energy and fuel resources and the environment, taking the interest of all the countries of the region into consideration
- Using to the utmost the existing international mechanisms, such as the “Clean Development Mechanism” and the “Joint Implementation Projects”, as well as of strengthening cooperation in the International Community



III. Water Management

The Pillar recognizes difficulties for the Central Asian region in the management of water resources

○ Using the framework of the EUWI, Eastern Europe Caucasus Central Asia (EECCA), and taking profit from the “**Berlin Water Process**”, the Platform provides an opportunity to address water-related issues in CA

○ **Actions**

- encourage further progress on regional cooperation
- suitable measures to adapt water supply and sanitation systems to climate change
- facilitate the implementation of BAT and the availability of drinking water and sanitation as well as the increase in the efficiency of water usage in energy and agriculture, while safeguarding the ecological balance in the region



Operational mechanisms of the Platform

The Platform foresees the identification of priorities and of operational mechanisms such as the establishment of an *ad hoc* Working Group

The EU CA Working Group's Mandate is to facilitate and operationalize the implementation of the EU CA Platform



The Platform's Composition

EU CA WG chaired by Italy, as coordinator Country for the Platform

EU Commission and a Central Asian Country (to be individuated during the first meeting of the WG) as Vice-Chairs

Chair is assisted by the 2 Vice-chairs, will take decisions on the WG's activities and initiatives

WG composed by official representatives nominated by each participating Country

WC include representatives of International Organizations, NGOs, RECs, International Financial Institutions



The Platform's Principles

Principles

WG Members have full opportunity to voice opinions and participate in discussions

Decisions should be made acknowledging the range of viewpoints from various stakeholders taking into account interested Partners who are participating



The Platform's Functions

Functions

- WG acts as an advisory body to the EU and foster the policy dialogue/information mechanism among all interested Partners
- Provide guidance on cooperation
- To be an instrument facilitating the implementation to meet the scope of the UNFCCC Convention and the Kyoto Protocol and related commitments
- Promote international partnerships and facilitate identification of financial sources
- To be coordinated with other initiatives as “Environment for Europe”



Platform and Social Awareness

- Social Environmental awareness need to be supported in the CA region
- Established co-operation with all relevant actors, including central and local authorities, NGOs, media and business community
- Need to have similar understanding of Environmental challenges and how to go further in line with with local conditions
- The Platform will promote the civil society with regard for existing regional mechanisms as the Central Asia Regional Environment Centre (CAREC)



Further action: 1° EU CA WG Meeting

- The first meeting of the EU - Central Asia Working Group on Environmental Governance and Climate Change (WGEGCC) will take place on 26th October and will be held back-to-back with the meeting of the EU Water Initiative's EECCA Working Group on 27th -28th October 2010

Constitution of 2 Break out Groups

Mitigation

- Low carbon technologies – mitigation measures
- National climate actions

Adaptation

- Adaptation strategies and measures
- Water and climate change/extreme weather events



Conclusion: Italy and the International Cooperation

Italian Ministry for the Environment has developed several cooperation activities with a large number of Developing Countries and Countries with Economies in Transition.

- Memorandum of Understanding: institutional framework and guidelines
- Projects according to the MoU
- Partnerships within the Johannesburg Summit framework (those partnerships gather diverse actors as Governments, ONGs and private sector to implement researches and/or project based activities)
- Participation Institutions established by International Conventions and Protocols (Ozone, Climate, POPs, Desertification and Biodiversity)
- International Environmental Financial Mechanisms (e.g. Ozone Multilateral Fund, Global Environment Facility, Regional Environmental Centre, Italian Carbon Fund...)

Italian International Cooperation Programmes





Thank you for your attention!



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