



Press Release

October 16, 2009

Union for the Mediterranean
Water strategy: the contribution of local and regional authorities
Conference in Lyon on November 23 and 24, 2009

An international conference centered on “The Contribution of Local and Regional Authorities to the Water Strategy of the Union for the Mediterranean” will be held in Lyon, France, next November 23 and 24. Organized by the Mediterranean Commission of United Local Cities and Governments in partnership with a number of major players, this event follows up on a proposition made by Jean-Louis Borloo, French Minister of State for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and the Sea, during a ministerial conference on water in Jordan on December 22, 2008. The commitment of the Rhône-Alpes region and Greater Lyon to decentralized cooperation was behind the choice of Lyon as host city for this conference.

Scheduled to be opened by **Mohamed Nasr Eldin Allam, Egyptian Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation**, the meeting will bring together 300 participants, most of whom are elected representatives of local and regional authorities from the north, south and east Mediterranean.

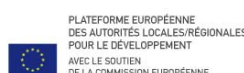
This international conference manifests the desire of local and regional authorities to play an important role within the Union for the Mediterranean (UpM) in the domain of water and sanitation. The conference aims to **encourage recommendations for the development of a Mediterranean water strategy by the member states of the Union**. Projects involving local and regional authorities could be submitted to the UpM for labeling and, depending on conditions defined, to major Mediterranean and international donors.

The Union for the Mediterranean was created on July 13, 2008, in Paris following a summit of heads of states and governments. The UpM aims to reduce the development gap between the three banks of the Mediterranean by promoting the implementation of infrastructure projects that meet the needs of local populations. Water is a priority action area.

One year after its creation, the Union for the Mediterranean remains a highly significant project, one which will contribute to making the Euro-Mediterranean region an area of peace, stability and prosperity for all of its inhabitants.



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- **Next press event: program and speakers**

- **Resources: www.ufm-water.net**

- **Press accreditations:**

http://www.ufm-water.net/meetings_registration/lyon/registration_press_html

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