Workshop Session 2

"DROUGHT-RESILIENT DESIGN: BUILDING FOR WATER SCARCITY"

Chair: Mauro Grassi (Director, EWA Foundation)

Academic guidance: Dr. Simos Malamis (Professor of Water Resources and Environmental Engineering, National Technical University of Athens)

When presenting the latest reports on the state of water in the EU, Commissioner Roswall underlined that our waters are polluted, that our water supply is under threat, and that we are not reducing the risk of serious floods enough. This session is aimed at addressing the issue of **water stress**.

With climate change, Europe is experiencing longer, warmer summers, leading to water scarcity and droughts. Many regions already face desertification, with sectors like agriculture, domestic use, and the industry competing for limited water resources. The construction industry plays a key role in building water infrastructure to address these challenges, including desalination, wastewater treatment, water storage, and transport. Maintaining existing infrastructure is also critical to prevent leakages and ensure public health and safety. As these services are mainly provided to public bodies, adequate financial resources through funding instruments must be guaranteed. In addition to this, and as some regions face increasing water conflicts, both cyclical and structural solutions from the construction industry are vital to maintaining Europe's water independence.

Case studies:

Management of water scarcity on construction sites: **Stéphanie Coullon** from our French member federation FFB (Fédération Nationale du Bâtiment) is presenting their promotion activities to reduce (fresh) water consumption on construction sites, whereas it is usually used to clean equipment, mix mortar and supply on-site sanitary facilities.

Applied models for water infrastructure development: **Apostolos Tzimas** is the Managing Director of EMVIS (Water Resources and Environmental Management) and will present how water infrastructure in north-eastern Crete has been developed to meet rising water demands while enhancing resilience to climate-related risks.

Possible points for discussion

- "The cheapest energy is the one we don't consume". In the same way, what innovative solutions can the construction industry provide, in partnership with decision-makers and investors, to reduce the waste of fresh water and increase the use of reclaimed water?
- How can collaborative water management and Public-Private Initiatives for a sustainable future create cohesive strategies and promote projects that prioritise shared water resilience goals?
- This comes with a cost, primarily borne by regional and local public authorities. What are the investment needs of both public and private sectors, and how can these funds be most effectively mobilised?

This note provides an initial indicative overview of the issues to be developed in workshop session No.2. It is not exhaustive and aims at guiding the brainstorming discussion.

Athens Conference - WORKSHOP 2 - **Chair: Mauro Grassi** Colour code: **RED**

Draft list of participants

Country	Federation	Name
Italy	EWA Foundation	Mr. Mauro Grassi
Greece	National Technical University of Athens	Mr. Simos Malamis
France	FFB	Ms. Stephanie Coullon
Greece	EMVIS Water Resources & Environmental Management	Mr. Apostolos Tzimas
Europe	FIEC	Christine Le Forestier
Austria	BiBau - FVBI	Mr. Walter Seemann
Belgium	Embuild	Mr. Niko Demeester
Europe	FIEC	Mr. Campogrande Domenico
Europe	FIEC	Ms. Giulia Garofalo
Europe	FIEC	Ms. Roberta Stankeviciute
France	FFB	Mr. Olivier Cazaux
France	Les Canalisateurs	Mr Pierre Rampa
Italy	Guest speaker	Mr. Francesco Rutelli
Italy	FIEC President	Mr. Piero Petrucco
Italy	ANCE	Ms. Federica Brancaccio
Italy	ANCE	Mr. Massimiliano Musmeci
Italy	ANCE	Mr. Romain Bocognani
Italy	ANCE	Mrs. Paola Malabaila
Italy	ANCE	Ms. Ginevra Sotirovic
Italy	ANCE	Ms. Giorgia Catalini
Italy	ANCE	Mr. Pasquale Ialongo
Italy	ANCE	Mr. Flavio Monosilio
Italy	ANCE	Mr. Giorgio Santilli
Portugal	AICCOPN	Mr. Ricardo Gomes
Portugal	AICCOPN	Ms. Sonia Oliveira
Romania	FPSC	Ms. Theodora Blum
Greece	PEDMEDE President	Mr. Gkoliopoulos
Greece	PEDMEDE	Paraskevas Tsampras
Greece	PEDMEDE	Vasileios Tsampras
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mr. Xenophon Karkantzos
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mr. Stratos Zisimopoulos
Greece	PEDMEDE	Eleutherios Tsampras
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mr. Antonis Papadakis
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mr. Thomas Panourgias
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mrs. Eleni Dritsa
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mr. Loukas Papageorgiou
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mr. Nikolaos Goliopoulos
Greece	PEDMEDE	Mr. Loukas Zisimopoulos

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