

REPUBLIC OF TURKEY
MINISTRY FOR EU AFFAIRS
Press And Public Relations Counsellor



PRESS RELEASE ON WORLD WATER DAY

World Water Day has been held annually with different themes on 22 March since 1993 in order to focus attention on the importance of water resources and to contribute to their sustainable management. This year's theme has been determined as "water and jobs" with a view to emphasizing the important role played by water in creating new job opportunities and improving the live hoods of the current workforce.

Since water resources face increasing pressure due to rising population and rapid industrialization, it is of utmost necessity to manage water resources in an integrated manner both in terms of quality and quantity. Efficient management of water resources which are critically important for all the sectors of the economy is also key to achieving sustainable development. Restructuring of water management in Turkey along those principles has gathered additional momentum with the EU accession process .

Efforts to align with the EU's water legislation are being carried out in the framework of the Chapter on Environment which was opened to accession negotiations on 21 December 2009. Owing to the harmonization studies and EU projects undertaken, bulk of the relevant acquis has been transposed into Turkish legislation, important steps have been undertaken to enhance administrative capacity, as well as to establish the necessary infrastructure and to secure proper implementation. Especially a number of institutional and legal arrangements have been put in place for implementing "integrated basin management model" for water resources in Turkey. Furthermore, in the recent times preparatory studies concerning a draft framework water law which was referred to in the 64th Governmental Action Plan was well as in the closing benchmarks of the Chapter on Environment have been accelerated.

With the purpose of providing to our citizens cleaner drinking and bathing water and protecting public health, a number of infrastructure projects in the field of water have been supported by the EU. In this context, 27 wastewater and drinking water projects with total budget of an approximately 650 million Euros have started to be implemented. In the context of EU Funds, 79 million Euros have been allocated for the investments in water sector between 2014-2016.

Every new step to implement the EU's standards in the field of water quality in our country will improve the life quality and welfare of our public.

Respectfully announced to the public.