



European Water Movement Assembly at Firenze 10+10

General Overview

The European Water Movement Assembly at Firenze 10+10 reinforced the desire to work together at the pan-European level but also how to integrate our work within the wider movement for the commons as well as with groups treating similar issues and the same goals. We took the time to discuss our role in the global water justice movement and how we see our future strategy and work at the international level. We aim to reinforce the recognition of water as a commons and as a fundamental universal right, but also to take into account the health of ecosystems and our link with the wider ecological movement. We are united to fight against the privatisation and commodification of this vital resource, and to construct a public and communal management of water, founded on the democratic participation of citizens and of workers.

Many new participants at Firenze have also signed up to join working groups and hopefully this will increase our working capacity and effectiveness as a network.

Attendance

We had people from various European countries and local water movements: Italy (Forum Italiano per I Movimenti dell'Acqua, CEVI, CICMA), Greece (136 Initiative, SaveGreekWater) Portugal (PAN, Agua de Todos) Spain (Aigua Vida, ISF, Red Aqua Publica, Plataforma contra la privatización del Canal de Isabel II), Bulgaria (Za Zemiata), Slovakia (People and Water), Belgium (IERPE), France (ATTAC, Coordination Eau Ile de France), Germany (Berlin Wassertisch), Romania, Brazil (MAB), Denmark, Norway, EU level organisations (EPSU, Food & Water Europe, Aquattac, Corporate Europe Observatory) and public water operators (AquaPublicaEuropea) etc.

8 November opening evening of the EWM Assembly

- Presentation of how the movement came about and where we need to focus on in the near future

The EWM core organizing committee has set up three working groups, which have begun functioning since July 2012:

- a. Actions (petitions, referendums, ECI, etc.)
 - b. EU Policy (monitoring and lobbying on EU water policy)
 - c. Communication and Expansion (website, logo, contacts)
- Presentation by Pedro Arrojo to start discussion on the global water crisis context and the European case (see his complete notes - <https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/ARROJO-Florenzia-2012.docx>)

Main points:

- The crisis of un-sustainability of our aquatic ecosystems
- The crisis of inequality and poverty
- The crisis of governance of water services under privatization pressures

- The loss of “know how” after many years of privatization

We need to start talking about the 99% of water and not only the 1% of drinking water that is privatized. The right to water only covers 1% of water, we need to have an ecosystem, water basin approach. We have broken our natural ecosystems and need to realize the link between these 2 crises in the world, the crisis of sustainability and social justice and equity. The victims of broken ecosystems are the poor. The austerity measures imposed by the EU at this moment should not be called austerity measures; they are in fact social sabotage.

- Case Studies Presentations from various countries with question and answers – Greece, Spain, Italy, France, Germany (<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/EWM%20country%20fact%20sheets.pdf>) & (<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/Water%20in%20Slovakia.docx>)

9 November working groups

A) Commons

Presentations were made on water and the commons

- Water as a Commons ppt in French by Thierry Uso (<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/ebc.ppt>)
- Notes from Thierry's presentation (<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/ebc-verbatim.doc>)



- Water and the Commons presentation by CICMA

(https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/Water_as_a_common_good_FI_1010.ppt)

Our proposals on this issue are summarized at the end of the document and were brought to the convergence session on the commons on both Thursday and Friday night.

Report on convergence session: (<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/Firenze%2010%20-%20natural%20and%20social%20commons%20report.doc>)

B) EU Policy

Presentation on various EU Policies that working group B are following and working on:

1. Implementation of the Water Framework Directive at Member State level
2. Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Waters
3. Directive on Concessions
4. European Water Partnership
5. European Innovation Partnership on Water
6. Letter to the European Commission on water privatization conditionalities through austerity packages

Ppt in English: (<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/EU-policy.ppt>)

Certain proposals:

- Reinforce positive environmental aspects present in the Water Framework Directive while lobbying strongly against other mechanisms we oppose such as water trading, water markets, lack of transparency in partnerships and decision making process
- Promote Public-Public partnerships more (creating and supporting connections at the international level as well)
- Create more links in our discourse between "social" water and respect for water
- Continue follow up on letter on privatization to the EC, look into legal action
- Help look into setting up an Intergroup on the commons in the European Parliament

C) Final Session

Expansion, Campaigns and Actions

- Presentation of the current European Citizen's Initiative on the right to water – <http://www.right2water.eu>

It is clear that more work has to be done by different actors at the national levels to promote the ECI and gather signatures, there are currently almost 50 000 signatures online, but to reach 1 million by next fall, many more have to be gathered proportionally.

- Presentation of the new European Water Movement website, already in EN FR IT and soon in ES – www.europeanwater.org
- Social media: we already have a twitter account and will discuss having a facebook page
- Finalization of the proposed work programme listed below

Core organizers met up later during the day to discuss the international movement's proposal of a UN forum on the right to water and the implementation of the right to water after the UN victory in 2010.

(<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/Report%20from%20EWM%20meeting%20on%20international%20context.docx>)

WORK PROGRAMME PROPOSALS FOR THE EUROPEAN WATER MOVEMENT 2013

Internal goals:

1. **Set up a group of legal advisers to support our work** – interpretation of legislation, various aspects of water and environmental issues, potential legal action, setting up national referendums and help in developing new legislation for pre-emptive referendums in case of proposals to privatize local commons and public goods
2. **Potential new working groups to be set up** in addition to A (Actions), B (EU policy), C (Communication and expansion) such as a group working on water and the commons
3. **Reinforce support for the ECI** (including adhesion of local municipalities, national level coordination has to be stronger)
4. **EU Policy group to work more on direct lobbying**, group has to be strengthened
5. **European Parliament event 2013** – Environmental Impact of water privatization to bring in environmental groups as well as present the global initiative for sea level decrease and smaller water cycles -

https://dl.dropbox.com/u/3588644/firenze/Global%20Iniciative%20to%20Decrease%20Sea%20Level_SEP_2012.doc

6. **More information exchange** – potential newsletter (who and how?)

Joint goals resulting from Firenze 10+10:

1. **Potential dates for joint action on the commons, water, financialization of nature:**
23-27 January 2013 - week against the financialization of nature and against big banks
The European Water Movement can participate
2. **World Water Day**
22 March 2013
Day before the March EU Spring Summit in Brussels, European Water Movement can hook onto it and organize a pan-european day of water action

Results from Commons convergence session, EWM was one of the coordinators (refer to report notes)

Extra role for EWM within the suggestions:

1. Help setting up an Intergroup on the Commons in the European Parliament
2. Joint position paper on the commons, EWM can provide narrative on water
3. Suggestion for EWM to participate in a session on the commons at the AlterSummit 2013

