



Launch of a CEPS Task Force

Which economic model for a water efficient Europe?

To achieve the objectives of the 2000 Water Framework Directive, it is generally recognized by the EU and member state governments as well as the broader stakeholder community that a more comprehensive policy response will be needed in general, with particular attention to water management. Such a comprehensive approach is currently being discussed within the context of the 'Blueprint to safeguard Europe's Water' that is currently being prepared by the European Commission to be ready by November 2012. While the 'Blueprint' is an initiative in its own right, it is also closely related to the EU 2020 (economic growth) Strategy and, in particular, to the planned Resource Efficiency Roadmap and the EU Climate Policy. The Blueprint will be the water milestone on that Roadmap.

As part of its programme on **5 March 2012 (from 10:30-17H)** CEPS will launch a new Task Force entitled 'Which economic model for a water-efficient Europe?' with a particular focus on the role of pricing of water resources. In close co-operation with DG Environment of the European Commission, the Task Force will analyse present practices in Europe and identify the key elements of a full cost pricing methodology, taking into account policy considerations, such as territorial economic disparities and social equity considerations. The Task Force will discuss issues such as :

- Understanding the challenges for the sustainable management of European water resources
- Improve water use through financial and economic instruments
- Water use in agriculture and industry: Economic incentives for resource efficiency
- Investment and finance: water treatment and sanitation (infrastructure), water use, remediation, restoration, eco-services payments, desalination etc.
- Instruments for efficient water pricing: tariffs, taxes, transfers

The Chairman of the Task Force will be **Richard Seeber**, Member of the European Parliament, EPP, Member of the EP ENVI Committee & President the EP Water Group.

The Task Force will report in May ready for the political discussions on the Blueprint.

Meeting dates are:

5 March 2012

27 March 2012

23 April 2012

A Draft Agenda for the first meeting and the full Prospectus, outlining the workplan, conditions for participation and a Registration Form are available on request.

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