

Speech of M. Guy FRADIN,

**Vice-President of the International Forum Committee**  
**Opening of the preparatory days of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum Marseille 2012**

Lyon – 30th May 2011

Thank you Mr Minister, Mr Vice-Chair of Greater Lyon, Madame the Vice-Chair, Mr Deputy Mayor, Mr Mayor of Istanbul, dear Martin, dear colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen the Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen ,

Thank you for coming, thank you for having replied to the joint invitation from the International Forum Committee, from Greater Lyon and from the Rhone Mediterranean and Corsica water Agency.

I would like to begin by presenting you the apologies and would beg you to accept them, the apologies of Benedito Braga who is Chair of the International Forum Committee; our Brazilian colleague who is not able to participate in this meeting as a result of his multiple commitments both professional and those brought upon him by the organization of the Forum.

He has therefore asked me to address you in his name and I thank you for accepting his apologies. The 6<sup>th</sup> Forum which we have the pleasure and the honor of organizing and for which we are counting effectively and heavily upon all the water players and you in particular... it's the Forum of Solutions. Serge Lepeltier reminded us: it is the ambition of this 6<sup>th</sup> forum to position itself very concretely on proposals, the implementation of solutions. Not that the solutions have not already been to a large extent identified or implemented but because it seemed to us that this certainly was the ambition of the highest order, that of moving on to concrete things and to translate into the implementation of your preoccupations. Behind "the time for solutions", we should also say "the time for commitments". Margaret Pageler said it: "you need to implement solutions" and who is better placed than you, the elected representatives, local and regional authorities, to make these commitments and implement them ".

In this respect the Istanbul Consensus which has been signed by a good number of you is a concrete element which translates these commitments. One of the goals of our meeting in Lyon and of course, during the months which separate us from the Forum, is that this Istanbul Consensus come alive, that other cities beyond the 700 which have already signed this Consensus, that other cities join the group of signatories and obviously, behind these signatures, make concrete commitments to provide the means to execute the operations necessary to move forward globally, collectively towards the Millenium Goals in terms of access to water and sanitation.

The Lyon meeting today is highly important for the preparation of this 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum. It is the kick-off meeting of the local authorities process, a process which is an intrinsic part of what we refer to as the political process; and in this respect I greet the presence of Philippe Lacoste who is here with us and who is the Chair of our Political Commission, therefore charged with coordinating this process, which both covers the governmental process, the ministerial process, the parliamentary process and the process of these local authorities.

As I was saying, it is of great importance that you, the representatives of the local and regional authorities be deeply involved in the preparation of this Forum. This process was born of the Forum in Mexico City, it matured at the Istanbul Forum, and our prime ambition, as I have said, is to take several steps forward in the involvement and implementation of solutions thanks to your proposals and your decision to commit. During the 9 months of preparation, you will be called upon of course to work, to exchange your experiences, to make proposals according to a route map on which we have proposals to make to you and for which you should before the end of this meeting make complementary proposals to enrich it. This will mean that during the coming 9 months we shall all be able to follow this route map perfectly operationally and arrive at the Marseille Forum with the concrete translation of this very route map. As I said also, it is because you are local and regional authorities also that you will have to make a commitment at the political level. We shall ensure and you along with us will ensure that this local authority process will take place in perfect interaction with the other thematic processes, that goes without saying, but also in the context of the political process in order that the all the political decision-makers in our countries act consistently and concertedly.

Yes, it is here and now in this very first meeting that you will also be expected to ponder over and make the first proposals on the messages which should be or may be delivered by you as a whole and by this local authority process. It is for this reason that you have been invited for this day and a half's work, which I am sure will be fruitful and I thank you for having been so numerous to respond to our appeal