

Speech of Mr Serge LEPELTIER,

**Coordinator of the 6th World Water Forum Local Authorities' Political Process
Opening of the preparatory days of the 6th World Water Forum Marseille 2012**

Lyon – 30 mai 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are really very happy to welcome you to Lyon to kick-off, to coin a phrase, this local and regional authority process in the context of the 6th World Water Forum which is to take place in March 2012 in Marseille.

You know how much this World Water Forum – it will be in Marseille- after Istanbul, which was a real success (25,000) participants, we would like all the local and regional authorities to take a real part in this 6th Forum in Marseille so that we can successfully measure the responsibility of local and regional authorities in the management of water and provide many positive points to improve its governance. Yes, as you know there will be a good number of debates, but beyond the debates we really wish that this 6th Forum will somehow be the time for solutions, that is to say beyond the declarations, beyond the commitments or each and everyone, it is imperative that the local authorities, in France the local collectivities can show what solutions they have adopted for good water management and that all the examples may participate in the improvement of the management of the water resource at international level, in the world, for we know that there still very many difficulties in this domain, for we know that one billion inhabitants have no access to water, one and a half billion have no access to sanitation.

So these two days will obviously be very important for that. I really do thank everybody here for participating in these two days of work and I shall hand over to those who will open the session.

I shall naturally hand over to Margaret Pageler who is a member of the Executive Committee of the Local Governments for Sustainable Development (ICLEI), and Coordinator of then local and regional authority process of the 6th World Water Forum and Governor of the World Water Council.

After, Jean-Paul Colin will take the microphone. He is Vice-Chair of Greater Lyon, Mayor of Albigny-sur-Saône, and it is he who will welcome us to this conurbation that is Lyon.

Then, Guy Fradin will make a presentation.

Guy Fradin is the Director of the Seine Normandy Water Agency, Governor of the World Water Council, but above all in the context of this World Forum, Vice-Chair of this 6th World Water Forum, and I would say that he is the executive organizes, prepares and on a day to day basis does the work of this 6th World Water Forum.

And then we have the pleasure of welcoming Ever Sengul, who is a member of the Municipal Assembly of the Istanbul conurbation. We are really very happy that he is here, since as I was saying, Istanbul was a real success, with at the end for the local authorities, the Istanbul Consensus, which was proposed and which has now been signed by a certain number of local authorities; and we

naturally wish that there will be more; but we really do thank the City of Istanbul for being present with us so as somehow to pass on to everything that was done in Istanbul.

And finally, Martin Guespereaux will say a few words; he is the Director of the Rhone Mediterranean and Corsica Water Agency. Gods knows if this is an important agency. I myself know for I am Chair of the Loire Brittany Basin Agency. You know that France is divided into six large basins with 6 large agencies which ensure that water has for many years now, since the 1960s been organized in this way, by “large basins” and which really enables to guarantee the quality and respond to the questions of the quantity of water, which are experiencing “just a little” at the moment, because of the weather here in France.