

Report by Mr Joseph FALZON (EPP) (Malta) in the Environment Committee

Thursday 14 April 2011

The Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development, which I have the honour to chair, met in Monaco on 22 March in order to mark the UN's World Water Day.

I first want to thank Mr Bernard Marquet as well as all the delegation of Monaco for their hospitality and kindness. This meeting was very well organised in a beautiful place and on a sunny day.

The Conference intended, first at all, to update Europe's laws and agreements relating to water, waterways and water management.

The Conference was opened by Mr Michel Roger, the Minister of State, and was closed by His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco.

In His speech, His Serene Highness emphasized that the work of the Council of Europe in the field of water is very much helping the search for solutions. He recalled that "controlling water, humans can live in an environment favourable to them, free of the recurring problems of drought or flooding. Clean water provides hygiene and increases people's life expectancy. And finally, that taking water supply right into people's houses helps women and children to avoid long hours of walking every day, enabling them to obtain both independence and education".

Finally, I want to pay tribute to Mr Victor Ruffy, our former Swiss member, who managed very well his work as moderator, despite the great number of speakers and participants.

We are waiting for his conclusions which will contribute to our next step, the parliamentary process to the 6th World Water Forum, which will be held here in Strasbourg on 10 June. I hope that you will all be able to attend.