



Conclusions of the European water forum held in Belgium in July

Secretariat of ISO/TC 224

Service activities relating to drinking water supply and sewerage

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PURPOSE

Conclusions of the European water forum held in Belgium in July

COMMENTS

Document provided by NEN (NL)

ACTION

For information

Association reconnue
d'utilité publique
Comité membre français
du CEN et de l'ISO
Siret 775 724 818 00015
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EUROPEAN WATER FORUM

General Reflections

The European Water Forum (EWF) took place on July 5th 2004 at Leuven/Brussels. The experts present were from the following countries:

- Germany
- Netherlands
- France
- United Kingdom
- Japan
- Austria
- Bosnia and Hercegovina
- Serbia and Montenegro
- Albania
- Croatia
- Lithuania
- Belgium
- Ireland

The following documents have been taken into consideration:

*****listing

The meeting took account of the opinion of the experts from new EU member states and other European states which are not yet members of the EU and came to the following results.

The participants of the European Water Forum address to the attending members of ISO TC 224 and to CEN-TC 164 and 165 out of which came the initiative for this Forum asking them to present the following results to ISO TC 224 on its next meeting in Rabat.

The participants stated that they will report the results to their mirror committees and/or national standards body and request them to formally communicate the results to the secretariat of ISO TC 224 (laurence.thomas@afnor.fr) by the 1 September 2004 the latest.

Targets and Further Proceeding of the Standards

- The participants of the European Water Forum expect from ISO TC 224 standards that they fix the general framework and give impetus to further regulations on national or regional level. The ISO-standards must leave enough space for such national and regional regulations.
- The standards should give guidance for clear responsibility and organisation, the use of appropriate technology and suitably trained operators.
- Drinking water and wastewater guidelines (WG 3 and WG4) should be separated. The guideline “service to the users” (WG2) could be common. There has been a harmonization concerning the form of the elaborated standards. A further harmonization concerning the way of presentation of the standards (prose/bulletstyle) would require a lot of time and money. To make standards available for practice and allow the contribution of official statements by the ISO members to these documents it is more important to proceed in the standardization process than to postpone the publication of drafts by further processes of harmonization.

Contents of the Standards

- The experts present from European countries represented at the European Water Forum expect that ISO standards do not conflict with EU legislation and existing European standards.
- The experts present from European countries represented at the European Water Forum confirm that a description of the methodology to handle Performance indicators (PI) is required. They stated also that for an individual service provider the regional and local situation shall be reflected in the choice of PIs. This choice shall not and can not be regulated in a standardized way worldwide.
- The experts present from European countries represented at the European Water Forum are of the opinion that the methodology of making PIs is more important than the PIs themselves. This methodology shall be considered as one of the management tools and shall be the same for water supply systems and wastewater systems.
- ISO standards have to reflect that specifications concerning the quality of the water and wastewater services differ strongly worldwide. These specifications shall not and can not be regulated in a standardized way worldwide.