



Organisation météorologique mondiale  
World Meteorological Organization

## Statement on the Occasion of the EUMETSAT-2011 Workshop for Directors of the NMHSs of DAWBEE countries

*M. Jarraud*  
*Secretary-General*

*(Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 6 April 2011)*

TEMPS WEATHER  
CLIMAT CLIMATE  
EAU WATER

A large, faint, light blue version of the WMO OMM logo is centered in the background of the lower half of the page. It consists of a globe with a compass rose and a laurel wreath.



**STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF THE EUMETSAT-2011 WORKSHOP  
FOR DIRECTORS OF THE NMHSs OF DAWBEE COUNTRIES**

by

**M. Jarraud**

**Secretary-General**

**World Meteorological Organization**

**(Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 6 April 2011)**

**Excellency,**

**Deputy Prime Minister of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM),**

**Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Water,**

**Mr Vancho Dimitriev, Director of the Hydrometeorological Service and Permanent Representative of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with WMO,**

**Dr Lars Prahm, EUMETSAT Director-General,**

**Dr Ivan Cacic, President of WMO Regional Association for Europe,**

**Dear colleagues, Permanent Representative of Members with WMO,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is a pleasure to be present at the opening of this workshop for Directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), jointly organized in Skopje by the European Organisation for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites (EUMETSAT) and the Hydrometeorological Service of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Historic Skopje is a city where I hardly need refer to the threat of natural disasters, as it has experienced not only the flooding of its Vardar River but also, in July 1963, huge damages from a major earthquake measuring close to 7 on the Richter scale, which killed over 1,000 of its citizens, left thousands more homeless and wrecked irreplaceable cultural monuments. These events are strong reminders that disaster prevention should remain at the top of national and international priorities.

I wish to thank Mr Vancho Dimitriev, Director of the Hydrometeorological Service and Permanent Representative of The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with WMO, for his kind invitation to be present at this auspicious ceremony, as well as for the outstanding collaboration established with WMO since his country joined the Organization on 1 June 1993.

Allow me to seize the opportunity to congratulate The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for its cooperation agreement with the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF) which came into force in February 2011, as well as for becoming a Member of the EUMETNET Network of European Meteorological Services at the end of 2010, together with the Czech Republic and Montenegro. These are very significant achievements which WMO has sponsored and which will contribute decisively to the meteorological integration of Europe, as well as the protection of lives and property throughout the region.

I would also like to congratulate EUMETSAT for this key workshop, as well as for launching the Data Access for Western Balkan and Eastern European Countries (DAWBEE) initiative, promoting operational access to EUMETSAT data and products by countries of these sub-regions which are neither EUMETSAT Members nor Cooperating States, thereby contributing resolutely to the Strategic Plan of WMO Regional Association VI (Europe), which explicitly calls for an improved capitalization on EUMETNET regional assets.

EUMETSAT is also on the verge of making a number of decisive advances in space observations, such as the future Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) and Polar System Second Generation (EPS-2G) programmes, including the launching of an impressive array of satellite platforms and new technologies during the present decade.

Today, EUMETSAT contributes decisively to international cooperation and the protection of lives and property in Europe and beyond, in particular through expanded partnerships with other satellite operators and by facilitating data access to many extra-European communities, especially in the developing world. In September 2010, I participated in Ouagadougou in the 9<sup>th</sup> EUMETSAT User Forum in Africa, organized to reinforce and to optimize the use of EUMETSAT data throughout this continent, and I was impressed by the increasing level of assistance being provided. I therefore would like to recognize the key role played in many of these accomplishments by EUMETSAT Director-General Dr Lars Prahm, who will soon be relinquishing his post.

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As WMO has recently reported, 2010 was the warmest year on record, at the same level as 1998 and 2005, confirming the observed long-term warming trend highlighted by the WMO co-sponsored IPCC report, since the ten warmest years on record were all experienced after 1998. Additionally, over the last decade, global temperatures averaged almost half a degree above the 1961-1990 mean, and they were also the highest values ever recorded for any 10-year period since the beginning of instrumental climate observations.

Climate change is here to stay and mitigation efforts must be accentuated to reach a satisfactory agreement in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The sooner the better, since the warming to which we are being committed by the inertia of the climate system will then be lower. In this context, the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of WMO's 189 Members shall be the first line of defence from the anticipated mounting frequency and intensity of weather and climate extremes, although in a number of vulnerable countries the NMHSs will require significant reinforcing.

Authoritative climate information will increasingly be required by decision-makers and by all socioeconomic sectors, especially at regional and local levels, in view of the grave risks associated with a rapidly changing climate for which there are no valid historic precedents. Accordingly, optimal ways to deliver the most appropriate climate services to end-users will be required, as well as comprehensive capacity-building at all levels.

As you are aware, since many of you participated in the technical sessions, WMO convened in 2009 the third World Climate Conference in partnership with the UN System. Heads of State and Ministers present at WCC-3 unanimously agreed to establish a Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), to support adaptation and to strengthen climate knowledge and applications for all socioeconomic sectors. Throughout 2010, a High-level Taskforce has developed recommendations for the Framework structure, priorities and governance, which shall be submitted next month to the Sixteenth World Meteorological Congress.

For this reason as well as for many others, the Sixteenth Congress will be a decisive milestone for WMO and its Members. The Congress shall begin with a two-day High-level segment in which I hope it will be possible for your countries to be represented at the highest level, so that your voices will be heard and the special needs of Western Balkan and Eastern European countries can be clearly perceived. I also look forward to your personal contributions to this exciting Congress session.

**Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before concluding, allow me to once more express my sincere appreciation to The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, for its exemplary collaboration with WMO and the international meteorological community.

Thank you.

---

Secrétariat 7 bis, avenue de la Paix Case Postale 2300 CH 1211 Genève 2 Suisse  
Tel.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 11 Fax.: +41 (0) 22 730 81 81 E-mail: [wmo@wmo.int](mailto:wmo@wmo.int) Website: <http://www.wmo.int>