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From Digital Early Warning Systems to Climate Services for Water: Strengthening Tunisia's Resilience to Climate Extremes

Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries / Tunisia

Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum 2026 · 29 September – 2 October · La Nuvola, Rome

KEY INFORMATION

Date	29 September 2026
Time	16:30 –18:00
Room	Circe
Format	Panel discussion
Language(s)	French, with simultaneous interpretation into English

SUMMARY

This session presents Tunisia's efforts to modernize water forecasting and management through digital early warning systems and advanced climate services. By connecting scientific data with governance mechanisms, the session highlights how to move from reactive crisis management towards an anticipatory and preventive approach to hydro-climatic extremes in the Mediterranean.

AGENDA & SPEAKERS

Time	Speaker Name & Title	Organization	Role / Topic
16:30	Sinan Bacha Head of the Planning and Water Balance Office	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MARHP)	Moderator: Welcome and introduction
16:35	Sinan Bacha Head of the Planning and Water Balance Office	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MARHP)	Panelist / REGLEAU project drought EWS – from data to alert and decision support
16:47	Sondes Jemai, Director, General Directorate of Dams and Major Hydraulic Works	Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries (MARHP)	Panelist / Presentation of the experience developed under the PIRC project
17:00	Livia Peiser Head of the Geospatial Unit, Land and Water Division	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Panelist / Open data for tailored services: FAO WaPOR applications in Tunisia for irrigation advisory
17:12	Eric Nino Head of the Europe, Mediterranean, Central Asia and China Department	International Office for Water (IOW)	Panelist / Water Information Systems
17:24	Moderator & Panelists / Q&A Session		
17:35	Moderator & Panelists / Discussion with the audience		
17:55	Moderator: Summary and Closing		

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE

The Mediterranean basin is now identified as one of the world's major "hotspots" of climate change. The intensification of droughts, floods and extreme hydro-climatic events is placing lasting pressure on water security, agricultural systems, infrastructure, ecosystems and populations. In this context, shifting from reactive crisis management to anticipatory and preventive risk management has become an absolute strategic priority for all Euro-Mediterranean countries.

However, Early Warning Systems (EWS) are only fully effective when technical alerts are firmly connected to multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms. It is crucial to transform raw hydrological, meteorological and climate data into operational services and information that can be readily used on the ground. This session will highlight Tunisia's pioneering initiatives (MARHP, GIZ, FAO, World Bank/PIRC), while opening the discussion on the challenges of data interoperability and the sustainable financing of these tools at regional level.

OBJECTIVES

- Present Tunisia's concrete progress in the design and deployment of integrated early warning systems for droughts and floods.
- Put Tunisia's experiences into perspective with best practices and lessons learned from other countries on the northern and southern shores of the Mediterranean.
- Promote an integrated and cross-sectoral approach, combining hydrological, meteorological and climate services with digital decision-support tools.
- Identify the technical and institutional levers (interoperability, data governance) needed to turn a technical signal into immediate civil protection or agricultural action.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Policy-makers and strategic planners from the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment.

- Civil protection authorities and disaster risk managers.
- National and regional hydrological and meteorological services.
- Representatives of the agricultural sector, water users and local authorities.
- Technical and financial partners, experts in geospatial technologies, remote sensing and artificial intelligence.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

- Formulation of operational proposals to accelerate the deployment of people-centred early warning systems, to be directly reflected in the proceedings of the 6th Euro-Mediterranean Water Forum.
- Active contribution to global and regional agendas, notably the United Nations “Early Warnings for All” initiative and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.
- Fostering new regional collaborations on climate data exchange and the co-development of cross-border climate services for water towards 2050.