

**“Water From Holland To Africa”  
(European Water & Energy Plan)  
or the  
“Wessel Meijer Water & Energy Plan”  
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**Introduction:**

Currently several big international social, energy and environmental challenges need to be addressed: the production of durable and clean energy, the use of excessive water surpluses in the north of Europe, the drought in the south of Europe and northern Africa, the migration pressure on Europe, the unemployment, poverty, hunger and thirst in Africa.

The power of my plan lies in the large scale and combined approach of challenges with proven technology.

**Description of my plan:**

I want to up scale the Dutch Water Management System to European proportions. I want a fresh water pipeline to transport surplus rain water (and water from the rivers) to the south of Europe, in first instance from the Netherlands to Spain, secondly into the Sahara. Along the pipeline bufferlakes will be created so water can be pumped in any desired direction for various means, treatment and use. The same concept can be deployed at the eastside of Europe.

**Why?**

Because a large scale and combined approach of various challenges is the only way. It's about time modern Europe demonstrates in a practical, concrete and united way what it's capable of. Where others search for water on Mars, Europe is taking the lead in "The Big Switch" where everything stays the same but its energy is clean and durable and still everything gets better anyway. There is a unique opportunity for Europe to take the lead with the cleanest and most sustainable economy in the world. Please allow me to say cheers!

**Goal of my plan:****1) Potable water production in the south, use of water surpluses in NL:**

In the south deserts grow at an alarming rate, in the north (the Netherlands) water surpluses are growing excessively and areas of land are allocated to allow the rivers to expand. Houses floating on water are being promoted more than ever. Large quantities of fresh water accumulated in bufferlakes ultimately need to be pumped overboard into the Sea, which is a total waste. At the same time water shortages in the south are becoming a tensioning challenge to society. This is a clear offer/demand situation where profits in the broadest sense of the word can be harvested.

Barcelona (ES) recently chartered two (2) oil tankers with fresh water from France as their bufferlakes nearly ran out; costs: 60.000.000 Euro.

Barcelona currently plans a pipeline from river Ebro but this plan already faces resistance from farmers fearing not enough water will remain for irrigation. To my opinion all the plans are half-backed but they do confirm the necessity of my plan.

**2) Reforesting:**

De-forestation (also in the south) exacerbates land erosion as water is no longer captured but evaporates quickly in the hot air. Reforestation is a key activity of the plan. With enough fresh water reforestation in the south is feasible. Reforests

retain water, fixate CO<sub>2</sub> in the form of wood, have a cooling effect, bring moisture into the air and start up the cycle of rainfall and the eco system. Between forests farmer lands can be re-activated. Re-foresting and agriculture will provide jobs to unqualified workers and lower migration pressure on the north.

Specific sorts of waste water (eventually mixed with manure surpluses and seeds) are very suitable for irrigation of dry and exhausted land. Waste water basically contains all valuable nutrients like minerals, salts and organic material that makes plants and trees grow like coal on the land.

To increase growth of young plants and trees to rocket speeds, collected CO<sub>2</sub> from present old fashioned coal and gas energy plants could be injected into the greenhouses.

### 3) **Energy storage and production:**

In the south electric energy can be generated with solar cells. Solar generated electricity can be used to split water into oxygen and hydrogen. Hydrogen is a great energy carrier and basically suitable for use in current car engines or to feed fuel cells.

The transportation of water is as much as possible powered by wind energy and will create buffer lakes at various altitudes. These buffer lakes can be drained through turbines and subsequently create hydroelectric power in case the wind does not blow and/or the sun does not shine. In this way the irregular supply of wind and solar energy is flattened so it will be reliable and competitive to oil.

Also it may be very profitable to investigate to what extent heated water from the south can be returned to the north in a closed system comparable to a central heating system one uses in houses. Naturally the whole system needs to be insulated well and dimensions will be gigantic, nevertheless; already a minor temperature difference implies a large amount of energy that can be extracted.

On top of that I anticipate several phenomena known from physics to be deployable for the transportation of water to higher altitudes like capillary dynamics (trees suck up water to high altitudes by capillary hair vessels) and atmospheric pressure differences.

### 4) **Fish breeding, recreation and protection of birds:**

The enormous bufferlakes along the pipeline can be used to grow fish and for recreation. At, or around the lakes, holiday resorts, houses, and fun parks can be built.

The bufferlakes will also provide a place to birds to rest and feed on their yearly trips from north to south and vice versa. These yearly bird migrations are in jeopardy because of decreasing bird landing places, but however extremely important to the earth's eco system.

### 5) **Exploration of the Sahara:**

If circumstances allow I would like to see the water & energy plan to be extended into the Sahara where “the real thing” can be realized at an enormous scale

### **Who is Wessel Meijer?**

Born 26-12-1959 in Amsterdam the Netherlands; mechanical engineer and still performing purchasing, supervision and quality control activities for the oil industry. Over the years I almost entirely moved over to the creative side of business. The fusion between disciplines, the mutual inspiration of art and science is my passion.

### **What do I want?**

At first instance: a budget to improve the present video presentation so my plan will be completely clear and promoted at the best level. I would be happy to make improved versions of the video for specific groups and in various languages. I have access to an excellent network of great creatives active in 3D animation, design, video production, games and websites. Current estimate for an dramatically improved video: 40.000 Euro.

At second instance: a budget to investigate costs for a feasibility study in co-operation with respected European water institutes. Current estimate of costs of pre-feasibility study: 100.000 Euro.

At third instance (or rather at first instance): I would love to see Europe to take the lead of the world wide switch to a durable and sustainable economy. Although I totally agree with economist mr. Thomas L. Friedman (USA) that we have no option but to switch rapidly to a clean and sustainable economy, I rather see (European member) the Netherlands take the lead as the Netherlands do not only have the fysical resources (water) but also a great reputation and experience in the field of water management and large scale water projects.

### **Present video presentations:**

#### **About the European Water & Energy Plan:**

<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=plusvision>

#### **About Wessel Meijer (NL):**

<http://www.plusvision.biz>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/GalleryCandy>

#### **About economist mr. Thomas L. Friedman (USA):**

<http://www.thomaslfriedman.com>

### **Additional information wanted?**

Please refer to the video or contact me as I am happy to answer questions or to integrate your additions, assistance, funds and/or positive energy.

**Contact data:**

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