

## **The RA VI Hydrology Forum**

### **Second Session**

**Warsaw, Poland, 24-26 September 2014**

#### **OPENING STATEMENT**

**By Professor Ostojki**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,**

**This is the second time we meet under the auspices of the World Meteorological Organization to discuss the most important current problems of European operational hydrology.**

**The more, I am pleased that the Polish National Hydrological and Meteorological Service can host European hydrologists two years after a very successful meeting in Koblenz.**

Every phenomenon in hydrology, as in other areas of environmental sciences, has its spatial and temporal scale. Not global, but regional scene is the place where the most important and interesting events in the theater of hydrological processes occur.

We observe and measure phenomena, we study hydrological processes, we are taking action to develop and practically use the hydrographic structure of the region and sometimes we must fight to control adverse hydrological phenomena.

**On a regional scale, unfortunately, an adverse impact of systematically progressive climate change is clearly witnessed.**

**We can see the consequences of climate change in the course of meteorological and hydrological conditions, and especially in increasing risk of extreme events.**

A single National Hydrological Service is not able to meet the challenges of the future. But! The strength of Europe is its ability to prioritize concrete aims, subsequent unity of action and co-operation of all members of our regional association to achieve these objectives. I would add that the unity has always been a key feature of hydrologists' community in WMO. That's why our work has proved successful. So, I think we meet at the right time to be able to consider what is most urgently needed in Europe to monitor and analyze the hydrological environment and how to gradually realize such goals. We should think to strengthen a relationship with the recipients of our information and products.

**Dear colleagues, hydrologists, as your friend in the profession, that is a trained hydrologist for many years being involved in water issues, I hope that you will find in Warsaw a good atmosphere for co-operation and fruitful discussions. As the Director of the Polish National Hydrological and Meteorological Service I wish you a pleasant stay in Warsaw, and especially in our institute, and I hope it will help you to further strengthen professional and personal contacts within the European hydrologists' community.**

I thank you for your attention.