

## Europe and Central Asia\*: Corruption in the Water Sector

**Countries covered in the GCR 2008:** Albania, Armenia, Austria, Georgia, Germany, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Montenegro, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom

### Examples of corruption and biased water policies from the region

- **Albania:** In 2005 the World Bank debarred six companies and five individuals after it was found that they had colluded on a project to improve failure-prone pipes, wells and pumping stations across the country. (P.45)
- **Italy and France:** In Grenoble, France and Milan, Italy public officials received significant bribes to award or influence the design of water and sanitation contracts. In Milan a private water company executive was imprisoned in 2001 for scheming to bribe local politicians with 4 billion lire (US\$2.9 million) to win a 200 billion lire (US\$145 million) wastewater treatment contract. The city council head was also convicted and jailed. (P.56)
- **Spain:** Corruption-fuelled overdevelopment along the coastline has aggravated concerns about water shortages and landed dozens of politicians and officials in jail. The free-for-all situation in one of Europe's driest regions has severely challenged the provision of water services. At present, 4.3 million people living in 273 coastal towns lack wastewater treatment. (p.35)
- **Sweden:** In 2003 three water and sewage pipe suppliers were convicted of price-fixing and market-sharing. (P.56)
- **Multinationals** from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy and other countries were prosecuted for seeking to influence the tendering procedure in the Lesotho Highlands Development Project, a US\$8 billion water infrastructure project in Southern Africa. (P.24)

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\* These highlights only reference specific examples from the region. For more overarching global trends, figures and policy suggestions that also include the region, please see the executive summary and full report.