



Water Policy in the European Union

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The role of the citizen



Europe's citizens are increasingly demanding a cleaner environment

- ⇒ clean water for drinking**
- ⇒ clean water for bathing**
- ⇒ clean and ecological sound rivers, lakes and coastal waters as part of their environment, their local and regional heritage**



Diversity of problems throughout Europe



- ⇒ **Pollution of our groundwaters, rivers, lakes and regional seas**
- ⇒ **flood events, but also water scarcity**
- ⇒ **over-abstraction of groundwaters**
- ⇒ **destruction of aquatic ecosystems and wetlands**
- ⇒ **erosion and desertification**
- ⇒ **challenge of EU enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries**



River basins in Europe





European Water Policy



- **“First wave” of Water Directives Quality:** Surface water (1975); Drinking water (1980); Bathing water (1976); Dangerous substances (1976); Fish water (1978); Shell fish water (1979); Ground water (1980)
- **From 1987, co-operation with parliament**
- **“Second wave” of Water Directives pollution control:** Urban Waste Water Directive (1991); Nitrates directive (1991); IPPC (1996); Pesticides (1991)



Key Elements of the WFD



- **Integrated Management of Water resources at the level of the river basin,**
- **covers all waters; surface, groundwater, estuarine and coastal waters,**
- **Achievement of good status (ecological and chemical) by 2015,**
- **Cost recovery: Use of economic instruments,**
- **Transboundary rivers also require integrated approach,**
- **Public participation**



Environmental objectives



✓ **Surface water**

No deterioration; Good ecological, chemical status; Restoration of polluted waters

✓ **Ground water**

No deterioration; Good qualitative and quantitative status; Balance between abstraction and recharge; Restoration of polluted waters

✓ **Protection zones**

Respect all norms and criteria for the **protection zones** (Nature protection, Bathing, Nitrate sensitive zones, new drinking water areas)



Implementation Timetable

2003 - Transposition into national legislation

2003 - Identification of River Basin District

2004 - Analysis of pressures, impacts, use

2006 - Monitoring programmes operational

2006 - Start Consultation with public

2009 - River Basin Management Plan

2010 - Pricing policies

2012 - Programme of measures operational

2015 - Environmental objectives



Integrated Management at the Level of the River Basin



River Basin Management Plan

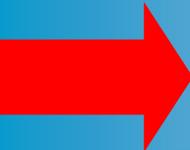
- **Characteristics of River Basin Districts**
- **Analysis of pressures and impacts, economic analysis**
- **Monitoring network**
- **Established environmental objectives and derogations**
- **Program of measures**
- **Results of public participation**



Implementation Strategy: Shared challenges



- ⇒ **Ambitious objectives and demanding timetable**
- ⇒ **Risks of wrong application because of complexity of the technical requirements**
- ⇒ **Large shared river basins (Danube, Elbe, Odra)**
- ⇒ **Capacity of administrations**

 **New implementation strategy required**



Implementation strategy: Objectives



Efficient, coherent and comparable implementation

- **Coherence and comparability**
- **Common understanding and approach**
- **Joint efforts and activities**
- **Limit risks of bad application**
- **Share experience and information**
- **Develop guidance**
- **Improve information management**



Implementation Strategy: Activities



- ⇒ **Information exchange and raising awareness (2002-ongoing)**
- ⇒ **Developing guidance documents (2002)**
- ⇒ **Geographical information systems (2002/2003)**
- ⇒ **Testing in pilot river basins (2003/2004)**
- ✓ **Manual for integrated river basin management (2004/2005)**



IMPLEMENTATION Strategy:

State-of-play



Progress to date:

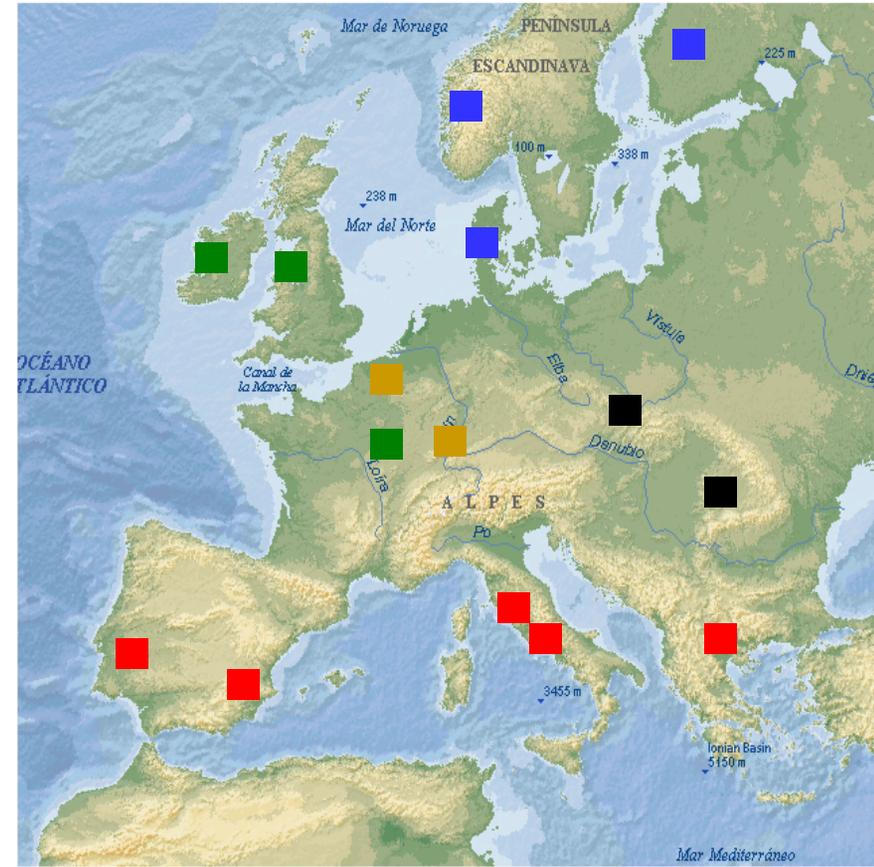
- ⇒ Finalization of eleven guidance documents and four technical reports (>1500 pages)
- ⇒ Setting up of pilot river basin network currently 15 pilots in 18 countries
- ⇒ Establishment of extensive expert network
- ⇒ Increasing awareness through numerous activities



Pilot River Basins



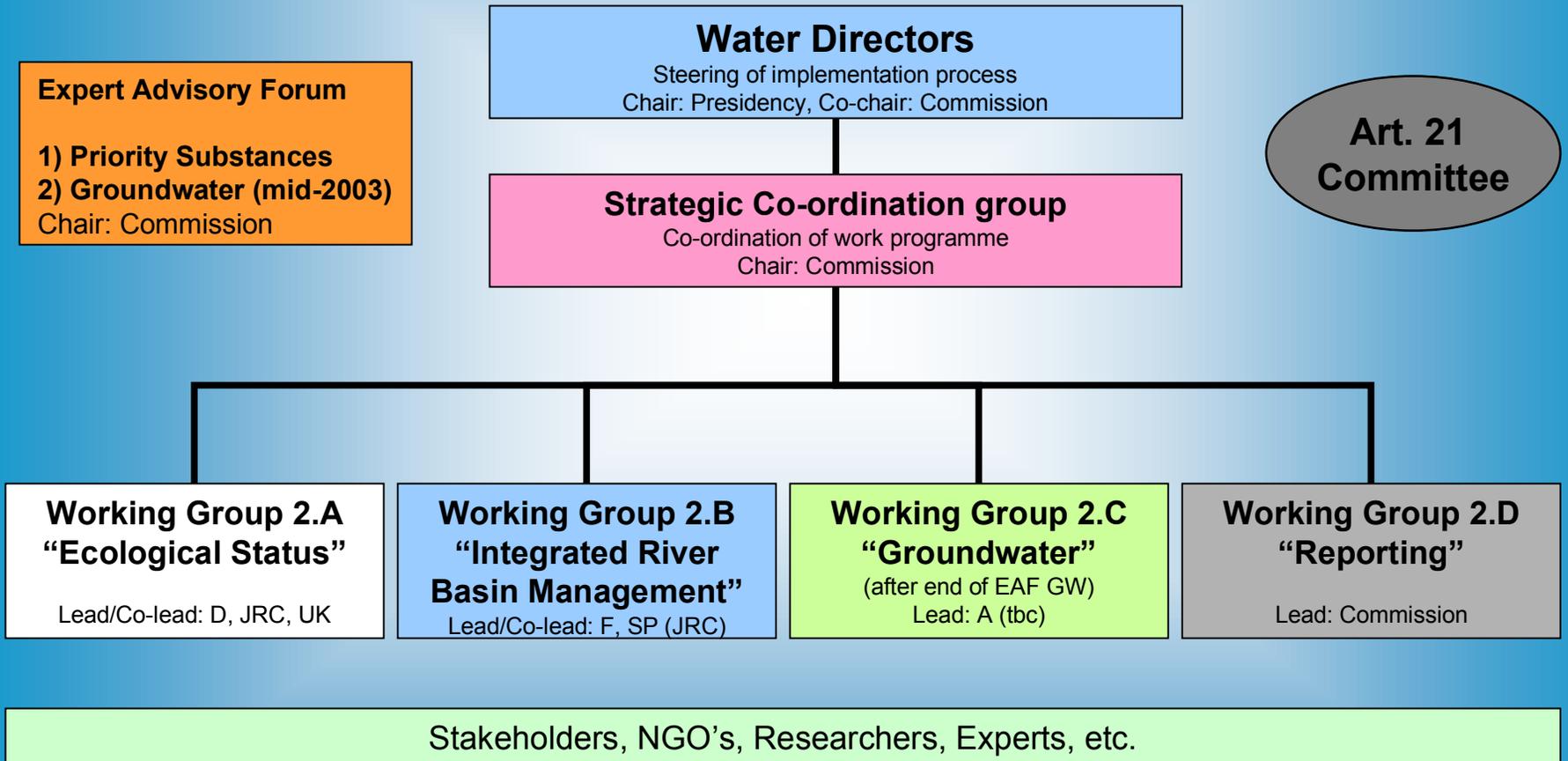
- **B, F, NL (Scheldt),**
- **D, F, Lux (Moselle-Sarre)**
- **France (Marne)**
- **Ireland (Shannon)**
- **UK (Ribble)**
- **Denmark (Odense)**
- **Finland (Oulujoki)**
- **Norway**
- **Portugal (Guadiana)**
- **Spain (Júcar)**
- **Greece (Pinios)**
- **Italy (Tevere, Cecina)**
- **HU/ROM (Somos)**
- **PL, CZ, D (Neisse)**



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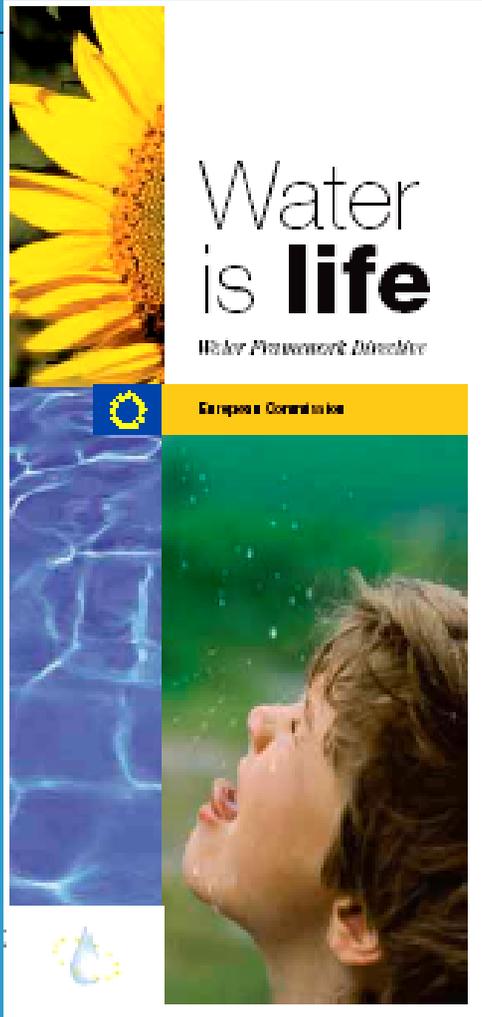


New organisation 2003/2004





Further information



Internet

<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water>

Folders and brochures
in 11 languages

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More information



On environmental policy incl. water:

<http://www.europa.eu.int/comm/environment>

WFD CIRCA Information Exchange Platform:

<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Members/irc/env/wfd/home>



Further information on the Internet



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Europa

The European Commission



Environment

The EU Water Framework Directive - integrated river basin management for Europe

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INFORMATION

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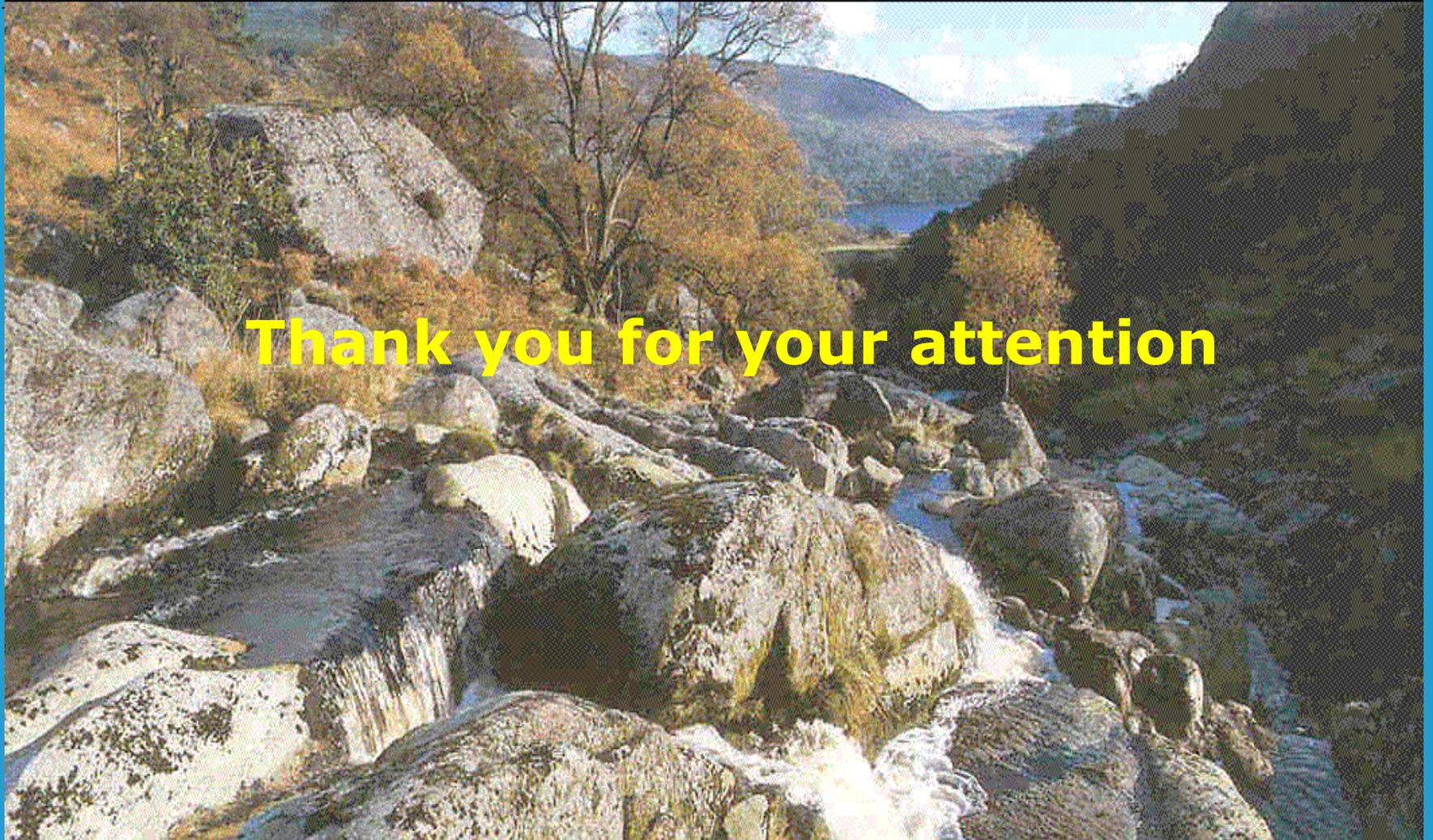
On 23 October 2000, the "Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy" or short the **EU Water Framework Directive** (or even shorter the WFD) was finally adopted.

Please find below the text of the Directive which was published in the *Official Journal (OJ L 327)* on 22 December 2000 and entered into force the same day.

[es](#) [da](#) [de](#) [el](#) [en](#) [fr](#) [it](#) [nl](#) [pt](#) [fi](#) [sv](#)

However, even after reading the Directive, you may have still questions, such as: What is this Directive about? What do I need to know about the Directive? What is currently happening in

Local intranet



Thank you for your attention



Evolution of Water Legislation



TODAY

WFD
Bathing Water
Drinking Water
Surface Water
Fish Water
Shellfish Water
Ground water
Urban Waste Water
Nitrates
IPPC
Exchange of Information
Decision Surface Waters
Dangerous Substances

REPEAL

2013

WFD
Bathing Water
Drinking Water
Urban Waste
Water
Nitrates
IPPC



Monitoring



- **Surveillance monitoring:** assessment of long-term changes
- **Operational monitoring:** establish status in bodies of water identified as being at risk of failing to meet objectives
- **Investigative monitoring:** where the reason for exceedances is unknown