

The background of the slide features a scenic view of a river flowing through a valley. A concrete bridge with several piers spans across the river. In the distance, a large dam is visible, partially obscured by the bridge's structure. The surrounding landscape includes rocky banks and some greenery. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent teal banner at the top and a white box in the lower half.

**RIOB Meeting**  
**Namur, 30/9/2005 – 2/10/2005**

***Quality information and public  
participation under the WFD***

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# New frame

- **White Paper on European Governance**  
addressing the democratic deficit in the European Union and proposing a new way in policy making and administration
- **Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters**  
UNECE initiative for an effective environmental protection

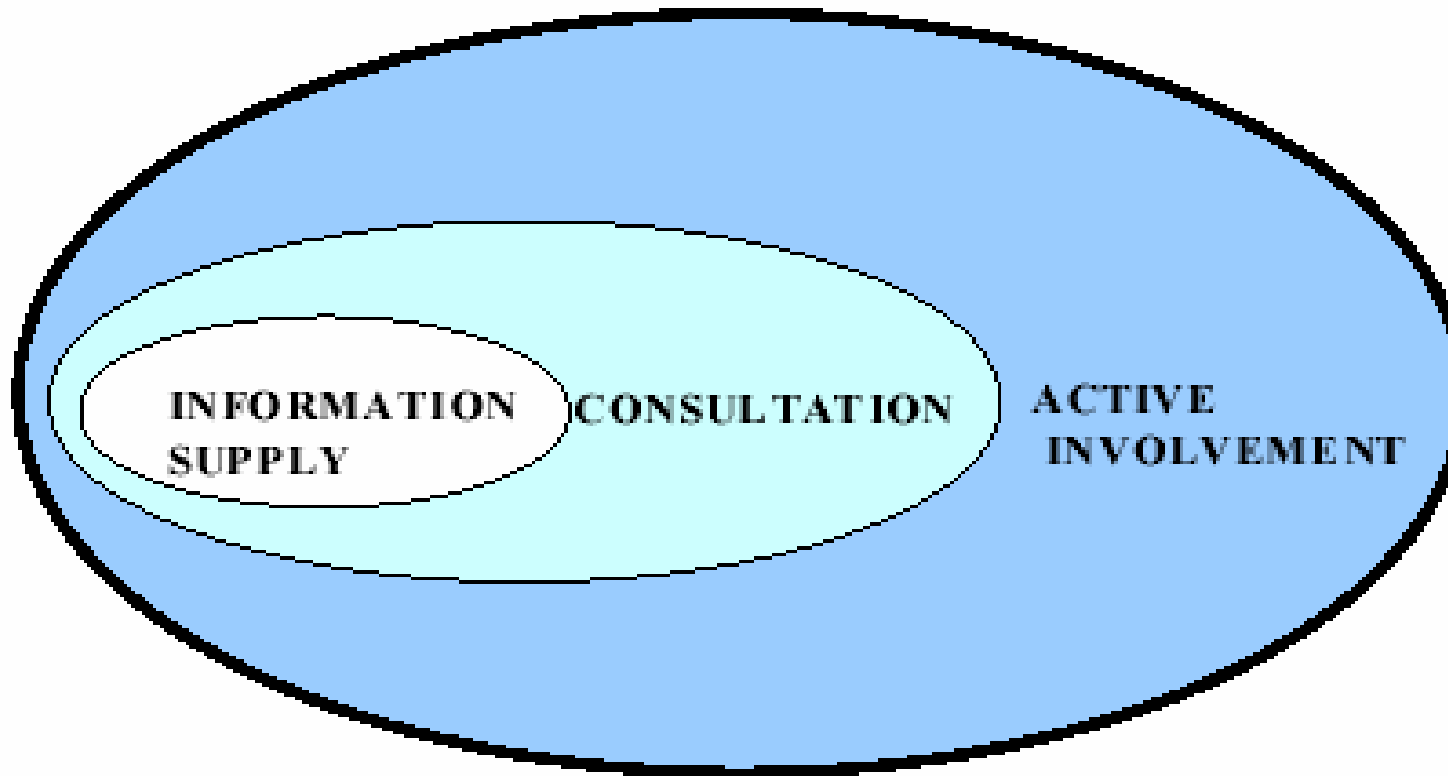
# White Paper:

- **Principles for a good governance**
  - openness,
  - participation,
  - accountability,
  - effectiveness
  - coherence.

# Water Framework Directive:

- **Article 14**  
**Public information and consultation**
  1. Member States shall encourage the active involvement of all interested parties in the implementation of this Directive, in particular in the production, review and updating of the river basin management plans. Member States shall ensure that, for each river basin district, they publish and make available for comments to the public, including users:

# WFD's Guidance:



The background of the slide is a photograph of a river with a dam. The water is turbulent and white with foam as it flows over the dam's spillway. The dam structure is made of concrete and metal, with some rust visible on the metal parts. The sky is bright, and the overall scene is outdoors.

# WFD's Guidance:

- Sufficient “Information supply”
- Access to background documents and information

# Sufficient “Information supply”

## Sufficient refers to:

- The different stakeholders and the public;
- The kind of information (progress in the planning process, results and outcome of analysis, proposed measures and plans, arguments in decision making);
- The way information is being provided (in a understandable and easy way, with e.g. announcements where to find information if required). For the public in general, the Internet, brochures and television spots are useful means. The organised stakeholders will most probably get all the relevant information in the steering groups or committees established.

# Quality of information

- Veracity
- Transparency
- Concreteness
- Understandability



# Quality of information

- **Veracity:**
  - any kind of intended distortion of the reality is not admissible
- **Transparency:**
  - the sources of information, the validity of data, the lack of information and the uncertainty involved must be assessed and made explicit



# Quality of information

- **Concreteness:**
  - the information provided should be as concrete as possible avoiding ambiguity as much as possible
- **Understandability:**
  - the documents should be written in a clear and understandable language, avoiding the abuse of professional jargons

# Conflicts due to misinformation

- **Júcar-Vinalopó water transfer**
    - Water diversion from Cortes de Pallás to Villena
      - Lack of water to guarantee the transfer
      - Budget executed around 40 %
    - Alternative under consideration: water catchment in Cullera (Júcar river mouth)
    - Conflict between future users and ceding users
- «The catchment in Cortes was not the result of an agreement, and we accepted it because we were fooled» - Fortea (representative of Low Jucar Basin's traditional irrigators)  
(Local Newspaper Levante, 17-08-2005)



# Participation improves quality of information... but it is not enough

- **“Study for the sustainable development of the Natural Park of L’Albufera” – RAMSAR wetland (Valencia)**
  - Experts agreed a baseline scenario of ecological status to be achieved (“The 60’s Albufera”) and gave criteria for evaluation.
  - Nevertheless, full conclusions of this Study (e.g. environmental flows) were not included in the DWF Art. 5.

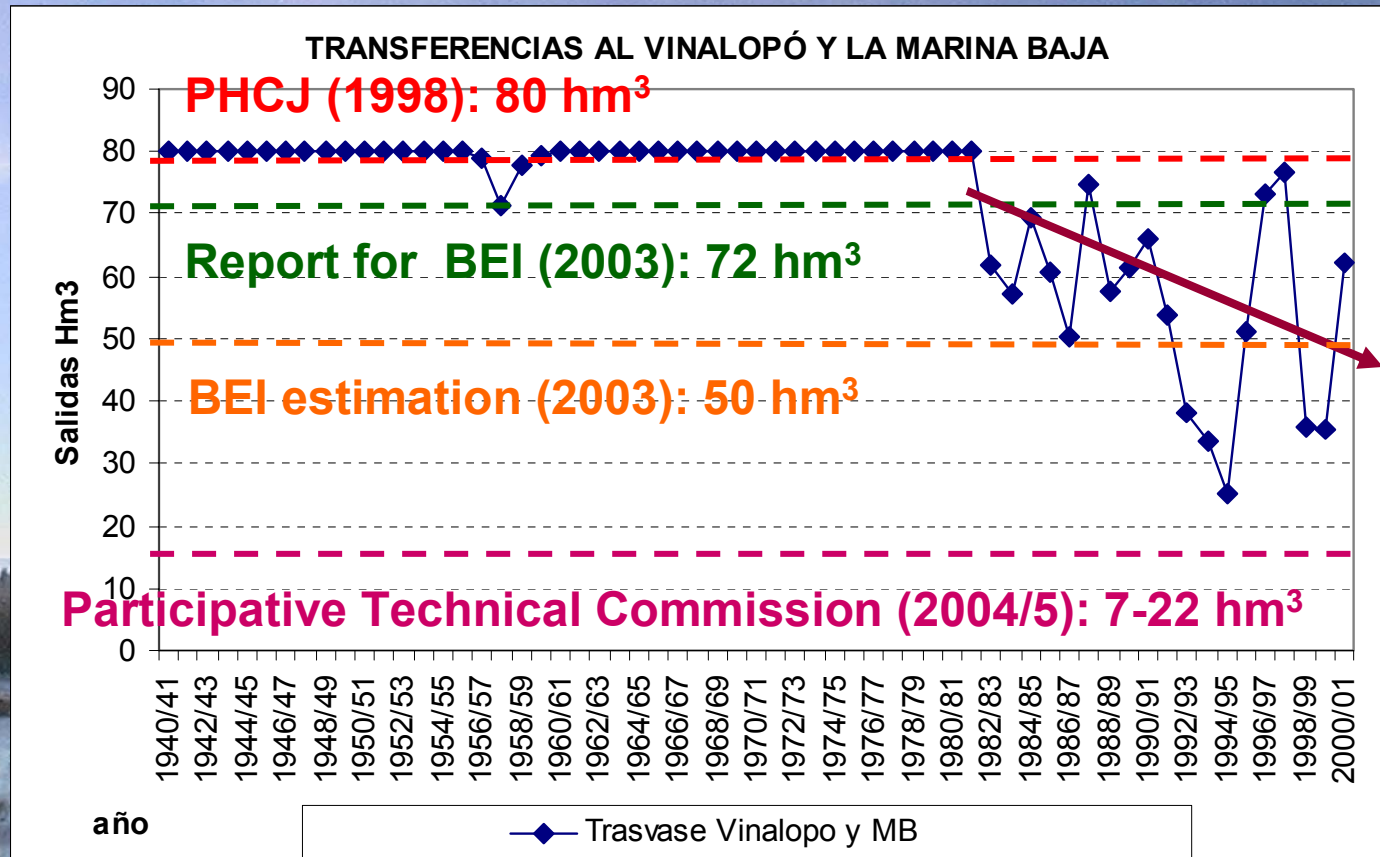


**Thank you very much for your  
attention**

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**Theoretical average water transfer from Júcar River Basin  
(Cortes catchment) to Vinalopó**

Source: Informe de contestación.... CHJ (junio 2003), y Informe del BEI a la  
Comisión Europea sobre el gran proyecto Júcar-Vinalopó (julio 2003).



Current average  $\alpha$ -chlorophyll concentration in the lake:  
 180  $\mu\text{g/l}$   
 concentration  $> 50 \mu\text{g/l}$  indicates bad ecological status

		ESCENARIOS FUTUROS			
Aportes hídricos anuales ( $\text{hm}^3/\text{año}$ ) <sup>1</sup>		Grado de cumplimiento de las hipótesis de trabajo			
		0%	80%	90%	100%
Escenario 0:	$\text{mgP/l}$	0,427			
173 (0)	$\mu\text{g Clfa/l}$	119			
Escenario 1:	$\text{mgP/l}$	0,29	0,107	0,083	0,059
183(51)	$\mu\text{g Clfa/l}$	97	45	37	29
Escenario 2:	$\text{mgP/l}$	0,216	0,082	0,065	0,047
253 (121)	$\mu\text{g Clfa/l}$	88	43	33	23

Tabla 32: Resultados de la simulación en el lago para diversos escenarios

$\alpha$ -chlorophyll concentration corresponding to  
 an acceptable ecological potential

