



A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources



1. Baseline for policy options

3rd European Water Conference

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What is the Blueprint?

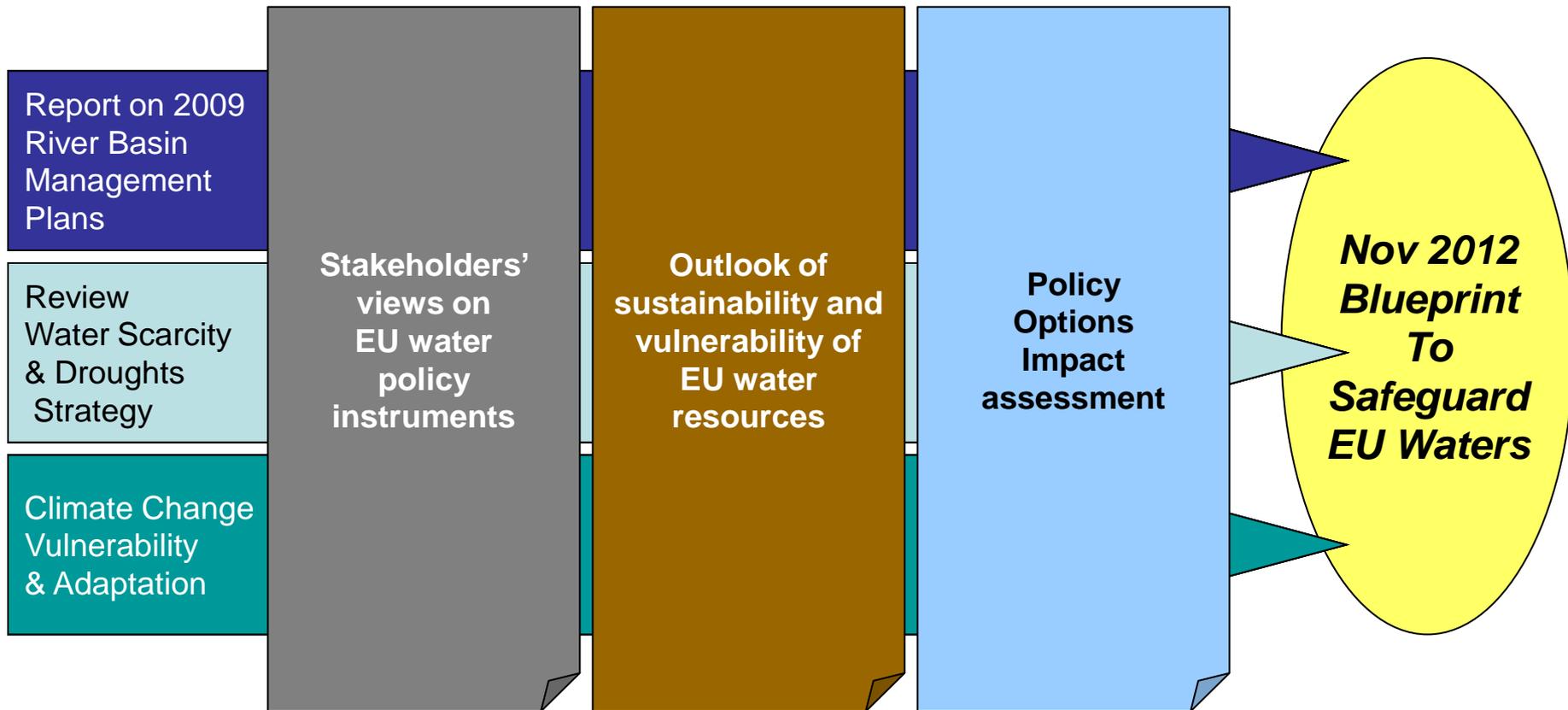
- *The Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources will present the policy response to the challenges presented in the State of Water Report,*
- *Long-term aim: **to ensure sufficient availability of good quality water for sustainable and equitable water use.***
- *Closely linked to EU 2020 Strategy and Resource Efficiency Roadmap.*

Why a Blueprint?

- *Improving the **implementation** of current EU water policy*
- *Fostering the **integration** of water and other policies*
- *When necessary, seeking the **completion** of the current policy framework*

Synthesis of policy recommendations building on on-going assessments

Impact Assessment



Assessment River Basin Management Plans: Some general preliminary findings

- A lot of effort put into **preparation** of the plans
- High uptake of the **common framework** and common language on water management provided by the WFD
- Integration of **ecological perspective** into water management
- Enhancement of **international cooperation**
- Public **participation**, stakeholder involvement
- Impressive improvement in the **knowledge base**
- **4 Member States** yet to submit plans
- **Low ambition** in many of the plans (extensive use of exemptions)
- **Lack of concrete** measures and low ambition
- **Lack of comparability** in some areas (e.g. chemical status!)
- Dressing “**business-as-usual**” as WFD

Status of adoption of WFD plans

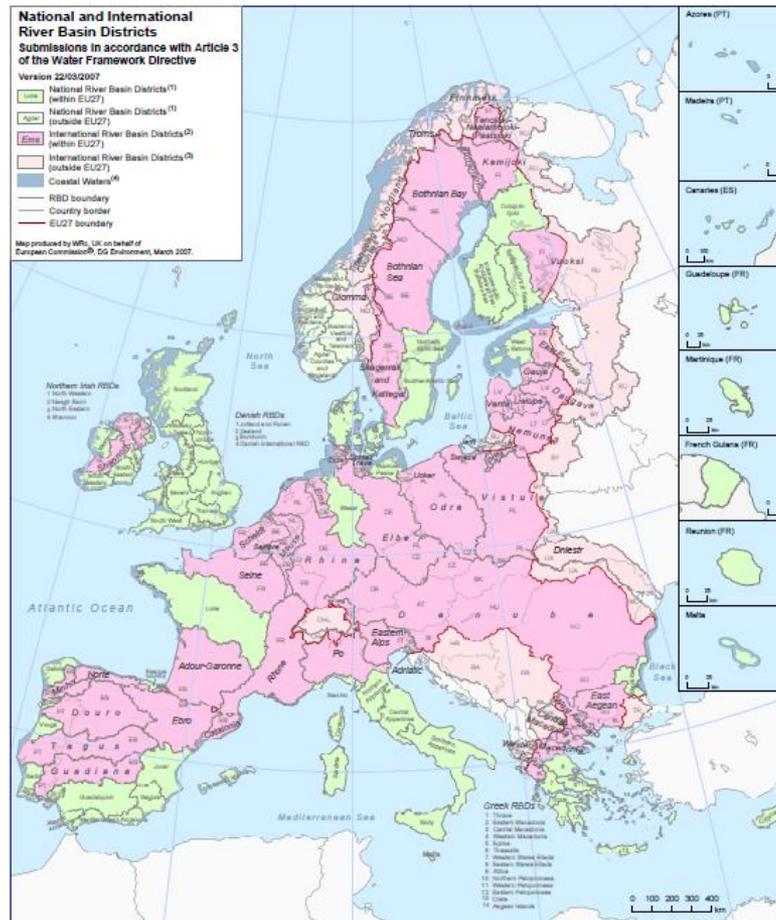


**GREEN - River Basin
Management Plans
adopted!**

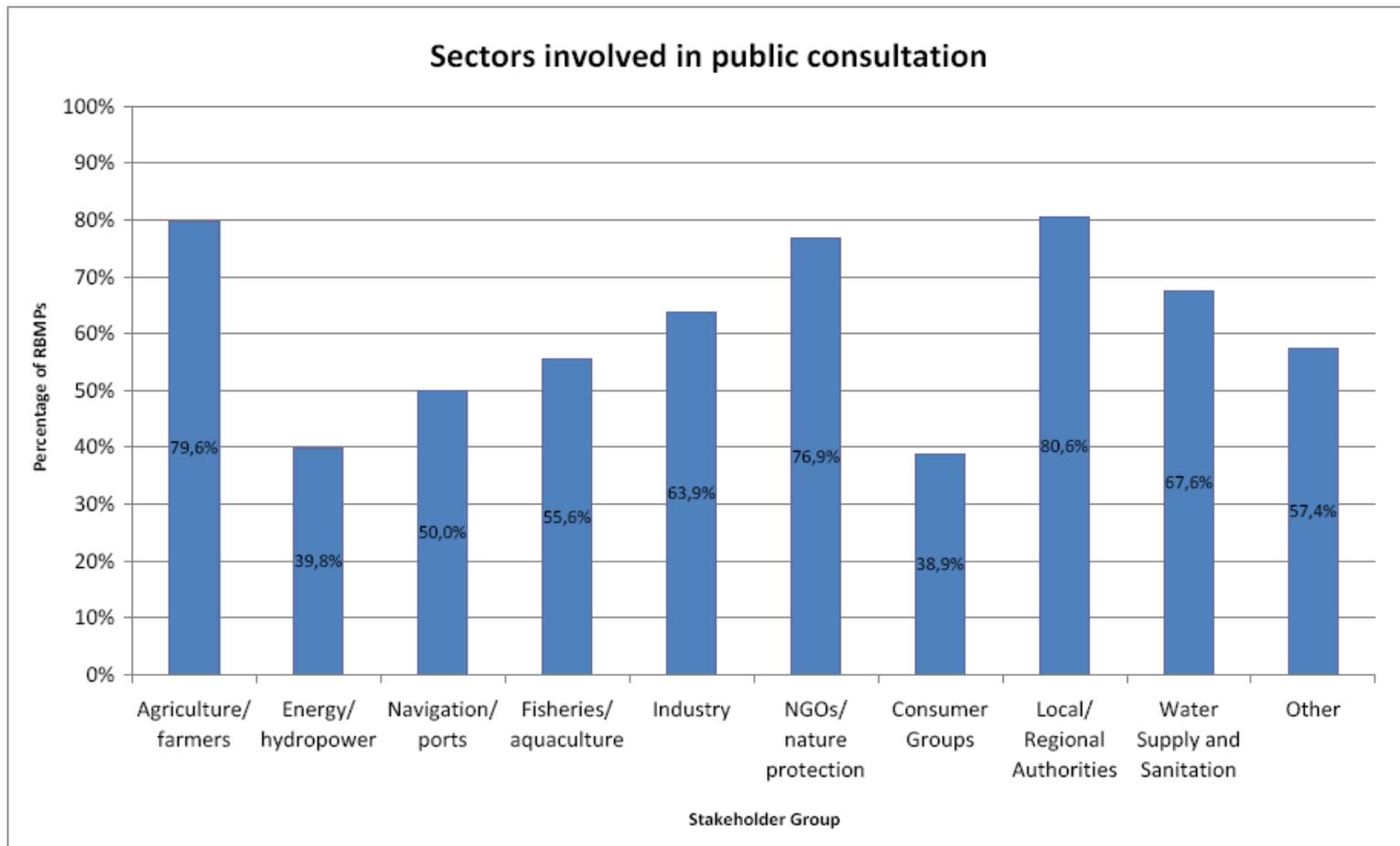
**RED – consultations not
started or ongoing**

<http://water.europa.eu/participation>

Improved international cooperation

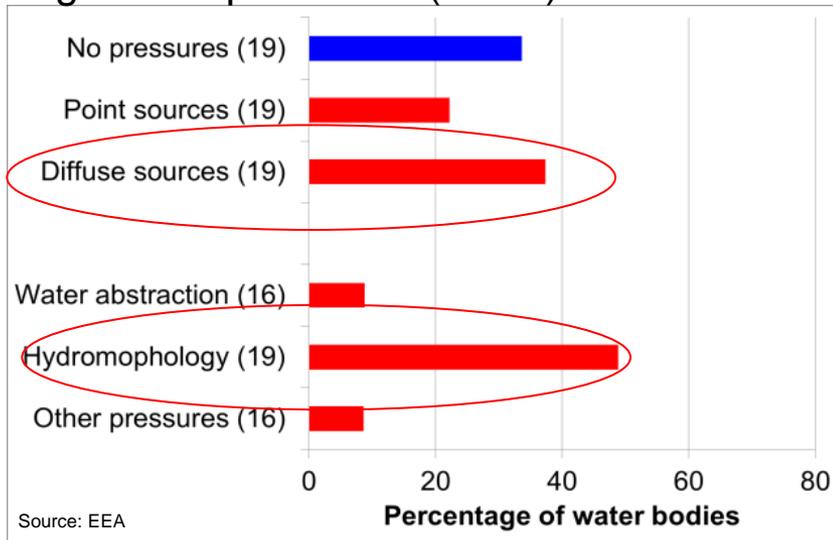


Extensive public participation

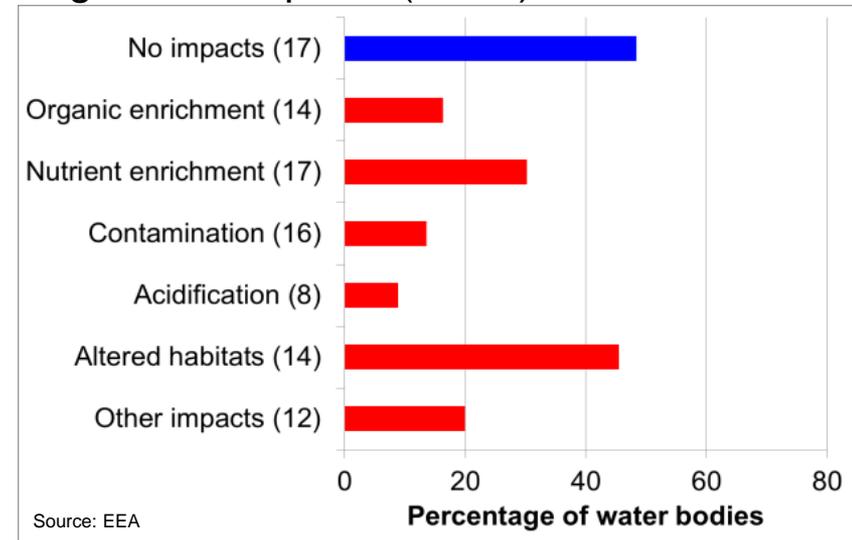


A lot has been achieved, but challenges remain

Significant pressures (rivers)

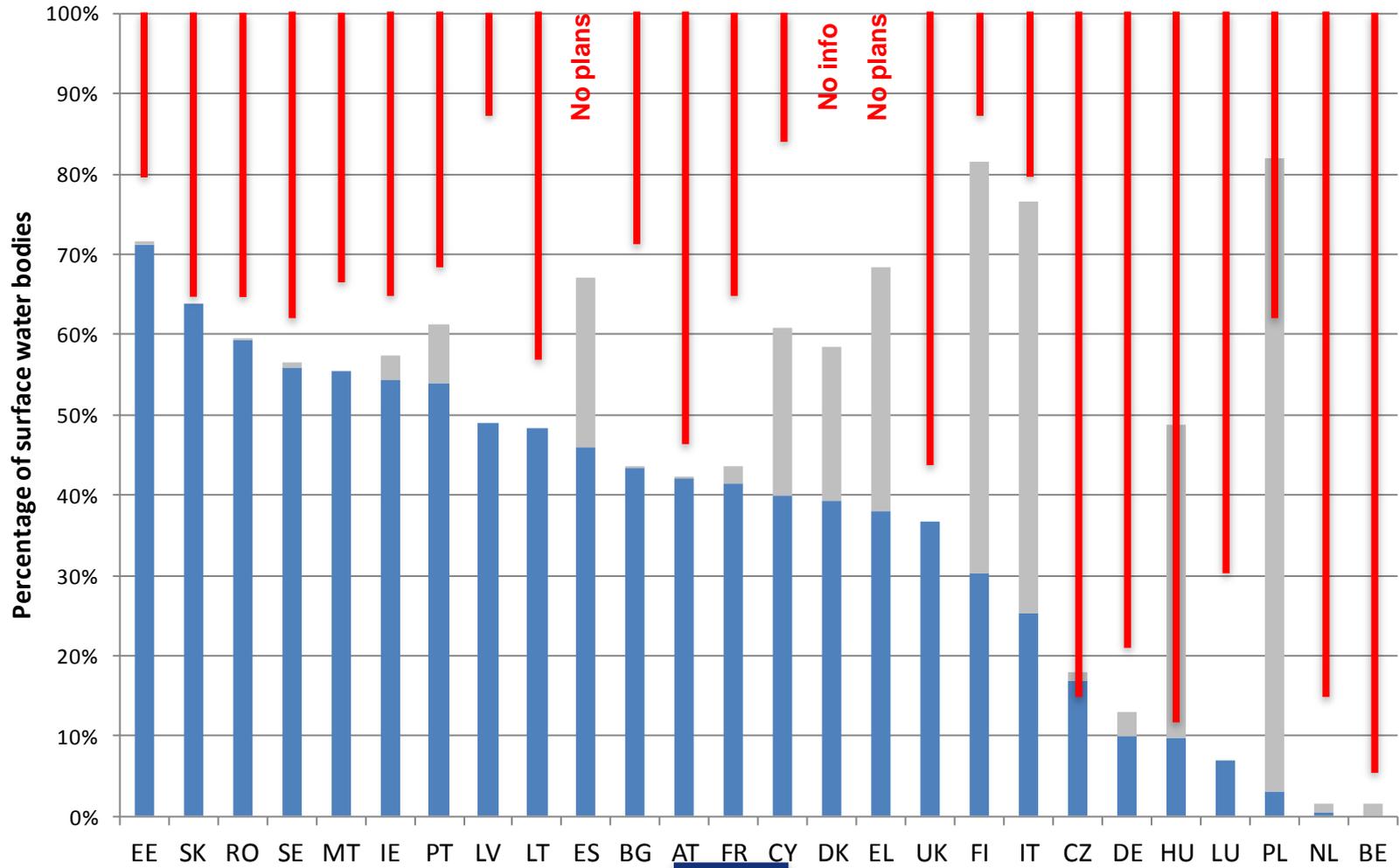


Significant impacts (rivers)



Starting point and ambition

- Good Ecological Status
- Unknown Ecological Status
- Exemptions



Source: WFD Reporting

Water Scarcity & Droughts

- State of play

How big is the problem?

- *2012: Water stress in 26 basins (all year)/43 basins (summer)*
- *2030: Water stress in 47 basins (all year)/63 basins (summer)*
- *Not only a Southern issue – 31 of 63 water stressed river basins are expected to be in the North*

What is being done about it?

- *Some measures from the 2007 communication are being implemented*

BUT

- *Responses are NOT reverting the trend in water scarcity the near future.*

Water Scarcity & Droughts

- Gaps in current policy framework

Conceptual gaps:

*Common understanding
of WS&D*

Adequate indicators

Information gaps:

*Inadequate knowledge on abstraction,
uses, balances*

*No clear understanding of effectiveness
& impact of measures*

Policy & governance gaps

Focus on drivers: land use

*Demand-based measures: water
efficiency*

Water saving: pricing

Drought Management planning

Implementation gaps:

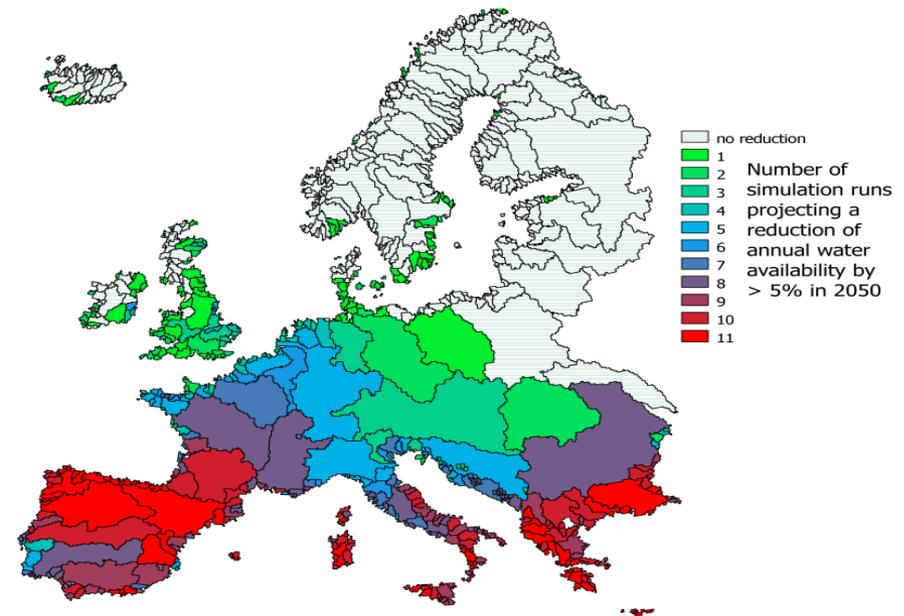
*Measures not linked to water stress &
environmental flows*

Clear roles and responsibilities

Funding

Climate Change Vulnerability & Adaptation

- *Assessment of drivers of vulnerability and adaptation measures at EU level in the **ClimWatAdapt** project*
 - **Combination of 4 socio-economic and 11 regional climate scenarios**
- *On-going assessment of specific measures (natural water retention, water efficiency, protection of drinking water resources)*



ClimWatAdapt policy recommendations:

- **Knowledge Gap**
 - *Additional research on uncertainty and adaptive capacity*
 - *Embed EU and national forecast systems in CLIMATE-ADAPT*
 - *Economic analysis under WFD: forecasts about future water use and related investments*
 - *Define and agree EU wide set of vulnerability indicators to measure the success of implemented adaptation measures*
- **Mainstreaming**
 - *Ecosystem-based approach into all EU policies targeting land use changes (CAP, Energy, Transport)*
 - *Funding priority to “green” or “soft” and multi-objectives measures*
 - *Climate proofing measures in 2nd RBMPs*
 - *Start assessment of long-term measures*
 - *Transboundary water management adaptation strategies*

Support actions at EU level to foster the uptake and implementation of technical adaptation measures.



Stakeholders views:

- **Improvements in implementation of EU water policy are required but no need to revise the WFD now**
- **Need for a stronger basis for tackling the problems of water scarcity and droughts**
- **Ecosystem services not systematically addressed within water policy**
- **More coherence needed with the CAP, regional, renewable energy and transport policies**
- **Potential to enhance synergies with chemical, pesticides, pharmaceuticals policies on issues such as risk assessment methods.**
- **Improved analysis of the costs and benefits of water protection measures is needed**

Baseline, Scenarios, Objectives

Water resource balances

Use of water by the different economic activities and impacts

Measures affecting water availability and water use

Climate, land-use, demographic and socio-economic **Scenarios**

Implementation
Measures

(POLICY BASELINE)

baseline scenario /
sensitivity analysis/
optimisation model,

Achievement
Good Ecological Status

Adressing
Water Stress

Resilience to
Extreme Events

From Objectives to Policy Options

