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

- Review Water Scarcity & Droughts Strategy
- Climate Change Vulnerability & Adaptation

- Stakeholders’ views on EU water policy instruments
- Outlook of sustainability and vulnerability of EU water resources
- Policy Options Impact assessment

Nov 2012 Blueprint To Safeguard EU Waters
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

Sectors involved in public consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stakeholder Group</th>
<th>Percentage of RBMPs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture/farmers</td>
<td>79.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy/hydropower</td>
<td>39.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navigation/ports</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries/aquaculture</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>63.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGOs/nature protection</td>
<td>76.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Consumer Groups</td>
<td>80.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Local/Regional Authorities</td>
<td>67.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Supply and Sanitation</td>
<td>57.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
A lot has been achieved, but challenges remain

**Significant pressures (rivers)**

- No pressures (19)
- Point sources (19)
- Diffuse sources (19)
- Water abstraction (16)
- Hydromorphology (19)
- Other pressures (16)

Source: EEA

**Significant impacts (rivers)**

- No impacts (17)
- Organic enrichment (14)
- Nutrient enrichment (17)
- Contamination (16)
- Acidification (8)
- Altered habitats (14)
- Other impacts (12)

Source: EEA
Starting point and ambition

Percentage of surface water bodies

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**

**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

Implementation Measures
(POLICY BASELINE)

Baseline scenario / sensitivity analysis/optimisation model,

Achievement
Good Ecological Status

Adressing
Water Stress

Resilience to
Extreme Events

Climate, land-use, demographic and socio-economic Scenarios
From Objectives to Policy Options

- Achievement Good Ecological Status
- Addressing Water Stress
- Resilience to Extreme Events

- Foster integration of water into sectoral policies
- Increase the use of economic instruments
- Achieve a more efficient water governance
- Improve knowledge and tools