

"The EU Water Blueprint: Implications for Water Law and Policy"

Seville, 21th of January 2013



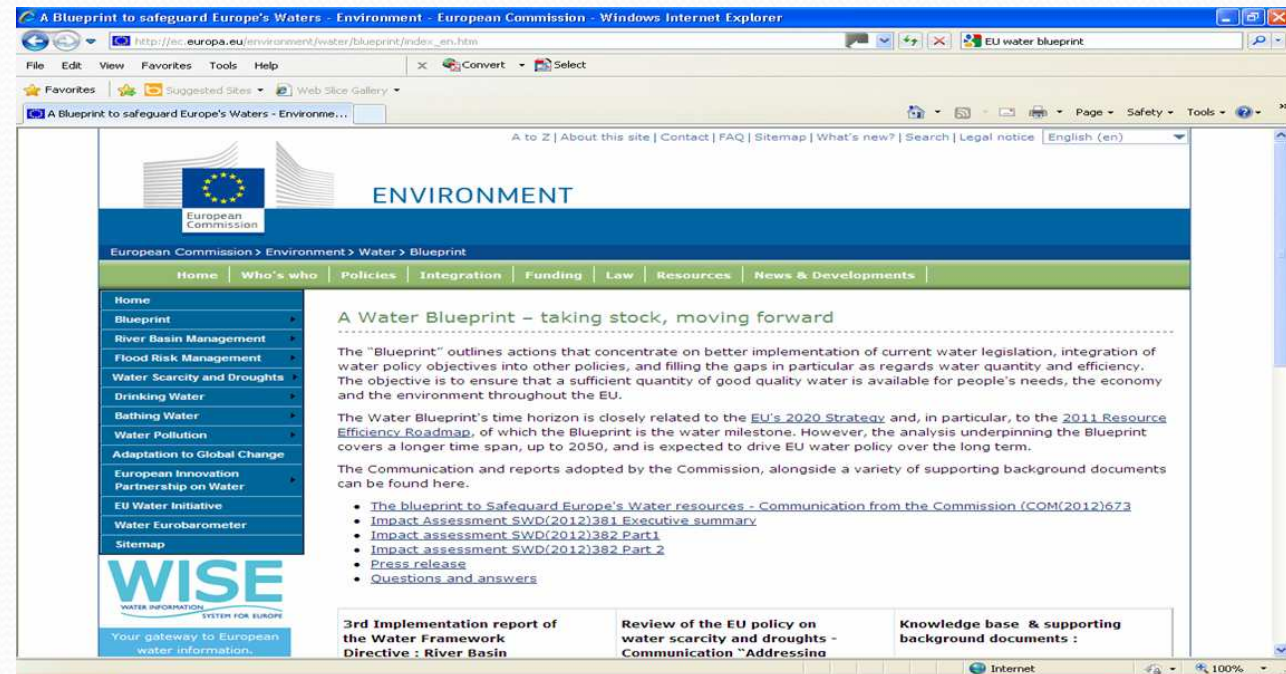
NOVIWAM Final Conference

Connecting authorities, researchers and businesses on water management RTD&I

21-22 January 2013, Seville (Spain)

Three decades of improvement in water protection...

Water efficiency, green economy, Europe 2020...



A Blueprint
to Safeguard Europe's
Water Resources



River Basin
Management Plans

REPORT on the implementation
of the Water Framework Directive
(2000/60/EC)



Report on the Review of the
European Water Scarcity
and Droughts Policy

The Blueprint – Key issues

- Ecological (and chemical) quality: hydromorphology; over-abstraction;
- Water efficiency: water accounting, water balance, ecological flow;
- Pricing, cost recovery, economic measures;
- Vulnerability (flood and drought).
- Needs better implementation and integration, including through the RBMP2's

The Water Framework Directive and The River Basin Management Plans

WFD process: RBMPs are core element of WFD

124 Plans submitted / 174;

4 Member States have not completed the process;

Wide variety in scale and detail

	2009	2015
SW ecological quality	43%	53%
GW quantity	85%	92%
GW quality	68%	77%

The RBMPs – Key issues

Law and governance: WFD objectives not really integrated into wider policy areas; reform of water rights

Integration of quantity and quality: water balance / ecological flow; climate change; Flood Risk Management Plans / Drought Plans;

Pricing: full cost recovery for all sectors; better use of economic instruments. (WFD Art.9; definition of water services.)

Water Scarcity and Drought

Major droughts, 2003, 2010, 2011;

1976 – 2006, drought up 20%, costs €100bn

11% population, 17% area of EU experienced scarcity in 2007; predicted to rise another 50% by 2030.

Commission communication, 2007:

- Hierarchy - demand management;

- disaster management not crisis response;

- 7 policy options; 2012 review

Policy Options – Review of Progress

Pricing: under-recovery, agricultural water...;

Allocation: water and funding – cross-compliance?; more emphasis on efficiency / conditionality post-2013;

Drought risk management: DRM plans; European Drought Observatory; preliminary indicators; better integration to RBMP2;

New / alternative supply infrastructure –all options /adverse effects in Plans; re-use preferred; but hierarchy remains;

Policy Options – Review of Progress (2)

Water Efficiency technology / practice (all sectors; shouldn't justify more use); quantitative / measurable sectoral targets;

Water saving culture – labelling; corporate social responsibility; certification; ecodesign

Knowledge / data collection – GMES; EEA data, EIONET, Eurostat; WISE maps; water accounting; EDO, indicators and scenarios. Too much MS data is qualitative and not comparable.

Drought / Scarcity and the RBMPs

40% RBMPs said drought / scarcity not relevant;

Most didn't distinguish drought and scarcity

Did identify effects on water environment; but not economic losses or social conflicts

<25% had data on trends for demand and availability

22 possible measures assessed - most not used

Drought / Scarcity and the RBMPs (2)

Top 5 measures:

Restrict GW abstraction

Training / education

Studies / research / pilots

Distribution losses (urban networks)

Pricing: < 50%...

Most did not address sectoral issues; most were not explicit re data / uncertainty.

Drought / Scarcity – Way Ahead

Define and implement ecological flows (water balance);

Targets (and pricing) for efficient use (sectoral);

Economic incentives; trading with ecological cap?

Landuse coordination;

Drought management: green infrastructure (and water reuse);

Resilience / CC adaptation

The Impact Assessment

Impacts: water quality, scarcity, flood and drought. Socio-economic: lower income countries, under-developed rural areas.

Objectives: available good quality water, sustainable and equitable use

Focus: Good ecological status; reduce water stress; reduce vulnerability

WRM measures needed:

water efficiency; green infrastructure; alternative supplies

(reuse)



Impact Assessment (2)

4 sets of problems:

Economic Instruments; Integration / Cohesion; Governance ;

Knowledge gaps

Policy Options: voluntary (tools and guidance); regulatory; conditionality

Consultation: strong support for guidance / policy; only 3 new regulatory options; strong divergence of views on conditionality...

Policy Proposals

Policy Option	Implementation
Pricing, metering, economic incentives Water trading Water accounting, ecological flow Sectoral efficiency targets, leakage Green infrastructure	Guidance (Continued enforcement of WFD Art.9)
Managing abstractions	GMES data
Buildings	Voluntary ratings
Appliances / products	Voluntary and mandatory labelling Ecodesign
Water reuse	New EU standards
Knowledge base	Review reporting requirements
Increased conditionality for funding	

Conclusions

Pricing / economic tools / water efficiency;
Integration of quality and quantity – green infrastructure,
ecological flows;
Integration across sectors and policy areas;
Continued scrutiny and enforcement of existing obligations
under WFD and other EU water law.

Thanks for your attention

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