

**COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FOR THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
(2000/60/EC)**



**Moving to the next stage in
Common Implementation Strategy for the
Water Framework Directive**

Progress and work programme for 2005 and 2006

AS AGREED BY THE WATER DIRECTORS

2/3 December 2004

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**THIS DOCUMENT AS WELL AS THE PREVIOUS WORK PROGRAMMES OF THE WFD
COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY ARE PUBLISHED UNDER
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/implementation.html>**

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Progress and work programme for 2005 and 2006

1 Introduction

In 2004, the implementation of the Water Framework Directive¹ is well underway. Most Member States have completed the transposition of the Directive into national law and have designated river basin districts and competent authorities². Where Member States have not delivered on their obligations, the Commission has taken appropriate legal action. Although progress is not satisfactory in all 25 EU Member States, the next important milestone, the characterisation and analysis of river basin districts, is in sight.

From a conceptual and implementation point of view, the first emerging results are promising since most Member States will be in the position to deliver this ambitious “product” of the Water Framework Directive. At the same time, the results of this first analysis are reasons for concern. In many river basin districts, the water bodies which are or are likely to be at risk of failing the objectives of the Directive are exceeding 50% rising up to 98% in individual cases. These data do certainly not reflect the “real” status of the water quality across Europe. The methodological aspects of this first analysis tend to overestimate the water bodies “at risk”, such as the lack of data, the uncertainty as regards certain criteria for defining the “good status” and the non-consideration of derogations and “heavily modified water bodies” in many cases³.

However, there are also some clear messages emerging from the analysis of pressures and impacts. Overall, the two most important ones are pressures from agriculture, e.g. diffuse emissions, and impacts due to hydromorphological changes (i.e. past physical alterations due to major water uses such as, e.g. navigation, hydropower and flood control). Despite the benefits of these uses, major negative implications for the well-being of the water environment across Europe occur from these activities. Moreover, indications are that these categories of pressures are likely to increase over the coming years since the future infrastructure projects are already planned and agricultural activities are likely to rise again in some parts of the EU following the enlargement. It will be a considerable shared challenge in the next decade to address these issues and ensure sustainable water management through a correct and timely implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

The Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive (WFD), as agreed by the Water Directors under the Swedish Presidency on the 2 May 2001⁴, has proven to be the adequate response to these challenges. The joint

¹ European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22/12/2000, p. 1) as amended by European Parliament and Council Decision 2455/2001/EC (OJ L 331, 15/12/2001, p.1)

² For the current status of the notifications of transposition and reporting, please consult : <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/implementation.html>

³ For more details on “Principles and communication of results of the first analysis under the WFD”, please consult : http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents/pressure_analysis&vm=detailed&sb=Title

⁴ Final CIS documents of 2001 and 2004 available under:

work programme (cf. footnote 4) of the Member States, the European Commission, the EEA Countries and Accession Countries, the stakeholders, NGOs and other interested groups were already successful in:

- ✓ moving towards common understanding and approaches;
- ✓ elaborating informal technical guidance including best practice examples;
- ✓ sharing experiences and resources;
- ✓ avoiding duplication of efforts;
- ✓ limiting the risk of bad application.

Based on the initial strategic document of 2001 and the renewed work programme 2003/2004 (cf. footnote 4), a wealth of products, results and experiences have been elaborated in the past three and a half years. In particular the guidance documents are often a common reference for everybody involved in the implementation and are widely used across Europe. Furthermore, the pilot river basins have demonstrated that it is possible to deliver the ambitious requirements of the WFD in practice. More details on the achievements and deliverables of CIS process are presented below (cf. chapter 2).

Despite these achievements of this joint effort on EU level, the current picture of implementation is not all “rosy” in the Member States. Several publications from environmental NGOs (e.g. “Tips & Tricks for WFD implementation”⁵ or “The quality of national transposition and implementation”⁶ or “Water and Wetland Index – Assessment of European countries”⁷) have highlighted some gaps, deficiencies or shortcomings. Indications from these reports should be a motivation to avoid becoming complacent and to increase efforts to tackle these challenges.

Addressing these and other challenges, this new Work Programme 2005/2006 of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive is moving the joint activities into the next stages of the implementation. In particular, the objective is to co-operate with and to develop support to the Member States and other interested groups in moving successfully from the “basin-wide characterisation and analysis towards the establishment of the monitoring networks and the river basin management plans”. In order to achieve this, important work is continued and new priorities are identified (cf. chapter 3). Overall, these agreed activities for 2005/2006 will be carried out in a similar organisational structure. However, where appropriate, adaptations are proposed to ensure that the objectives are being met within the most appropriate and efficient structure (cf. chapter 4). Concluding remarks finalise the main part of the document (chapter 5) and the annexes include all the detailed mandates of the working groups and the activities.

This document was agreed at the meeting of the Water Directors in Amsterdam on 2-3 December 2004. This new Work Programme 2005/2006 will ensure that the successful and effective collaboration in the context of the Common Implementation Strategy will continue over the coming years.

⁵ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/implementation.html>
⁵ http://www.eeb.org/activities/water/200403_EEB_WWF_Tips&Tricks.pdf
⁶ <http://www.eeb.org/activities/water/11-WFD-implementation-quality-a-snapshot-EEB-May2004.pdf>
⁷ http://www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/europe/what_we_do/policy_and_events/epo/initiatives/freshwater/water_wetland_index.cfm

2 Achievements in 2003/2004

The discussions in the preparation of the work programme 2003/2004 were dominated by the identification of key priorities to be addressed on EU level and by the wish to substantially re-organise and streamline the CIS structure. The original 10 Working Groups (of 2001/2002) had delivered their results and it was clear that such a resource demanding structure could not be upheld. However, the reduction in Working Groups had created a certain discontinuity because different working methods were introduced. Consequently, the four new Working Groups (for 2003/2004) needed a transitional period.

Following this transitional period, the new working structures were fully operational. In fact, the new structures ensured a more flexible and targeted use of resources for the implementation of the agreed activities. In comparison to 2001/2002, the number of meetings was significantly reduced (cf. table 1). At the same time, most of the deliverables on a wide range of issues were prepared. In particular the use of ad-hoc structures as drafting teams (see Annex 1), was contributing to the reduced number of meetings whilst maintaining output and quality.

Table 1: Overview on some indicators of the progress in the WFD CIS process from January 2003 to October 2004

	Jan – June 2003	July – Nov 2003	Nov 2003 – June 2004	July – Oct 2004
Number of members in WFD CIRCA	~ 700	~ 800	~900	927
Number of meetings of WGs and EAFs	9	11	12	8
Number of final “products” from the CIS process	2	2	5	3

Overall, the deliverables of the CIS Work Programme 2003/2004 were produced within the timetables agreed (cf. table 2). Exemptions were the eutrophication activity, which was started later in order to consult the mandate widely, and the programme of measures activity was not carried out, since there was no unanimous agreement on the scope and focus of the action.

In addition to the deliverables already foreseen in the Work Programme 2003/2004, further products were prepared following an identification of such additional activities by the SCG and the Water Directors. In particular, a document on the “Principles and communication of results of the first analysis under the WFD” was prepared by a Drafting Group associated with the Strategic Coordination Group and led by the Commission (DG Environment). This document was finally discussed at the meeting of the Water Directors in Dublin (22/23 June 2004) (cf. footnote 3). Furthermore, a concept paper on “Reporting for Water – towards a shared information system for water”⁸ was agreed which describes a long-term process for developing a “Water Information System for Europe” (WISE).

⁸ <http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/transposition.html>

Table 2: Key priorities identified in the CIS Work Programme 2003/2004 and its status of delivery⁹

Working Group	Activity Lead	Key activities/deliverables	Status of delivery	Comments
WG 2.A – Ecological Status	JRC	Intercalibration exercise – establishment of the register of sites	Finalised in Oct 2004	Decision on register to be agreed in early 2005
WG 2.A – Ecological Status	DE/UK/JRC	Intercalibration Guidance	Finalised in Dec 2004	
WG 2.A – Ecological Status	UK/DE	Guidance on Classification of ecological status including the use of physico-chemical and hydromorphological parameters	Finalised in Nov 2003	Guidance No. 13
WG 2.A – Ecological Status	JRC	Harmonisation of typology (in particular for transitional and coastal waters)	No specific product	Common types for intercalibration regularly updated
WG 2.A – Ecological Status	COM (ENV) + Steering Group	Guidance on assessment of eutrophication in the context of different European policies	Mandate agreed in June 2004, to be finalised by Dec 2005	Work initiated in June 2004, first part of document available
WG 2.B – IRBM	JRC	Pilot River Basin Testing exercise	All finalised during 2004	Various products including Outcome Reports (first part finalised in June 2004, second part finalised Dec 2004)
WG 2.B – IRBM	IT	Guidance on the management of wetlands in the context of the WFD	Finalised in Nov 2003	Guidance No. 12

⁹ Finalised deliverables available in the public WFD library:
<http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library>

Table 2: (Continued)

Working Group	Activity Lead	Key activities/deliverables	Status of delivery	Comments
WG 2.B – IRBM	FR/NL/COM (ENV)	Addressing of economical methodological aspects: Information sheets on baseline scenario, river basin scale and cost recovery Information sheet on environmental costs	Finalised in June 2004 Finalised in Dec 2004	
WG 2.B – IRBM	FR/SP	Preparation of river basin management plans and programmes of measures	-	Work discontinued following discussion on Water Directors' meetings
WG 2.C - Groundwater	COM/AT	Characterisation and monitoring of groundwater	All finalised during 2004	Several workshop reports
WG 2.D – Reporting	COM/EEA	Guidance for reporting under the WFD – reporting sheets	Finalised in Dec 2004	2004 reporting sheets agreed in Nov 2004, update on 2005 reporting sheets

Note: IRBM – integrated river basin management

In the last work programme, a number of lessons from the first phase of the CIS were identified. It is worthwhile reviewing these lessons and evaluate whether the revised structure and the operation in the last two years could overcome some of these issues:

Organisation of Working Groups and cross-cutting issues

The reduction of working groups has certainly helped to streamline the work and reduce the resource pressure on everybody involved in the CIS process (e.g. by significantly reducing the number of meetings). Furthermore, it was easier to identify and discuss cross-cutting issues at an earlier stage. In particular, the SCG steered the discussions in order to ensure a better co-ordination and link between the different groups. However, there is still potential to better integrate the different activities in the coming stage of the work programme.

Time constraints

Overall, the time pressure on the activities was still high. However, the planning of timetables for the various activities was more realistic and overall the timetables were kept well.

Management of emerging issues

The management of emerging issues has improved considerably. Whether initiated by the Water Directors or by the Strategic Co-ordination Group, an active management of subjects which are identified in discussions in the Working Groups, the Member States or the European Commission ensured the flexible, targeted and efficient approach. The best examples are the discussion, development and agreement of the document on the “principles and communication of risk analysis” and the discussion on the key areas for future pilot testing. This approach should be continued and strengthened during the new work programme.

Decision-making process

The decision-making process was criticised during the finalisation of the first set of guidance documents. In the meantime, it is certainly become more routine on all levels and the general "consensus-based" decision-making is the appropriate model for a process such as the Common Implementation Strategy. This has not led to a compromise in terms of the quality and the ambition of the results during the last two years. However, despite the improvements, it will be necessary to critically monitor the performance of the chosen decision-making process in order to avoid a lowering of standards in some of the difficult discussions and decisions ahead.

In conclusion, the results of the CIS WP 2003/2004 are impressive and useful. In addition, the planning and management of the activities under the work programme improved considerably. Building on these positive experiences, the CIS process should continue to further ameliorate its operations in order to continue to deliver results of high quality and value for the WFD implementation during the work programme 2005/2006.

3 Priorities/Activities in 2005/2006

The support for the continuation of the CIS process is continuously strong and the added-value for Member States, other countries, stakeholders and NGOs and the European Commission has been recognised widely. It is acknowledged that a variety of issues are best and most efficiently addressed jointly, in a collaborative way, on European level. In addition, the Water Framework Directive and the Common Implementation Strategy provide a leadership role on the pan-European scene of integrated water management.

However, the increasing number of issues and demands on relevant working areas needs to be managed carefully and a selection of priorities needs to reflect the most important areas where co-operation provides the most added value for the institutions and organisations involved.

The original activities under the Common Implementation Strategy were described in the following categories:

- *Information sharing*
- *Development of guidance on technical issues*
- *Information and data management*
- *Application, testing and validation*
- *Policy development*
- *Integration of WFD in other policies areas*

These priorities are still valid and all of the proposed concrete actions in table 3 below fall in one or several of these categories. With the new flexible management of

activities where actions/tasks can be initiated through discussion of emerging issues, it will be possible to address other aspects provided that they fall in one of the categories and that the resources are available within the CIS process.

Further to discussions held in 2004 on all levels of the CIS (WD, SCG, WGs), a list of priority activities has been put together listed in table 3. All these activities merit equal considerations. However, a few important aspects are highlighted subsequently.

The **intercalibration** is a core task provided by the Water Framework Directive which is essential for ensuring a comparable level of protection in consistency with the Directive. A number of additional activities, including the preparation of the eutrophication guidance, are all intended to support the intercalibration exercise and improve the quality of the results.

The **pilot river basin exercise** will continue to be an inspiring exercise and “symbol” of the Common Implementation Strategy. The integration of pilot basins in all working groups and all activities under the CIS will create a closer link to the practical implementation work.

Integrated river basin management covers a wide range of issues and aspects. It is therefore important to identify priority issues which need to be addressed on EU level. The activity on **screening the Article 5 analysis reports and linking it to research priorities** is designed to this end. In addition, the **assessment of cost-effectiveness** is in the centre of attention in the beginning. Moreover, the initiated activity on **water scarcity** should be incorporated into this framework. This activity is carried out in co-operation with the EU Water Initiative and participation from countries outside the EU should be encouraged. At a later stage in the work programme, issues related to improve **international river basin management** should be addressed.

On **groundwater and priority substances**¹⁰, the CIS process should provide an information exchange platform to address issues of practical relevance and importance as long as the negotiations on the proposals is ongoing. In particular, the aspects of **chemical monitoring** should be addressed to develop guidance on some key issues. As regards priority substances, the information exchange may also address all those aspects referred to in Article 16 (such as the identification of new priority substances, the setting of environmental quality standards, the source screening and the reflection on emission control measures) .

On **reporting**, the preparation of the guidance part on **reporting of monitoring results** should be addressed in 2005 and the part on **reporting the river basin management plan** should be started as soon as possible afterwards. Furthermore, the harmonisation and information exchange on **geographical information systems (GIS)** should be another priority in order to improve the tools necessary to exchange spatial data in the context of reporting into the “Water Information System for Europe” (WISE).

The link of **agriculture** and WFD has been identified as one of the highest priorities in this work programme. It will be important to discuss on how the Common Agricultural Policy can contribute to the achievements of the WFD objectives and provide guidance on how the authorities working on the WFD and the CAP can co-operate more closely. In addition, recommendations should be made on how work with the farming community can achieve these results in a co-operative manner.

¹⁰ Following the finalisation of the Commission proposal.

A new policy on **flood protection** is developing at the moment following the Commission Communication¹¹ of July 2004 and the recent Council conclusion on this document. In order to prepare the necessary follow-up, the work on flood risk management should be brought under the umbrella of the CIS process.

Moreover, the work on **environmental objectives** will become increasingly important. Currently, a discussion document is under preparation. On the basis of this document, the Water Directors will identify the subsequent activities which will be engaged in the CIS work programme 2005/2006. The work on environmental objectives will be carried out by a step-by-step approach in which the mandate is formulated iteratively by addressing some of the key aspects in more detail such as, e.g. discussions on exemptions.

Finally, there are also other priorities which have emerged already, such as the **integration** of the WFD aspects into other Community policy, in particular the **Cohesion Policy, Transport Policy (navigation) and the Renewable Energies Policy (hydropower)**. Detailed initiatives should be developed during 2005 for each of those. On Cohesion Policy, there is already a drafting group established under another forum, the Expert Group on environmental aspects in Structural and Cohesion Policy. The WFD is investigated as a case study on how Cohesion Policy can contribute better to the achievements of EU environmental policies. For the other two aspects, a workshop dealing with hydromorphological pressures and the designation of HMWB during 2005 may be a starting point to prepare a new, targeted activity on transport and navigation under the CIS 2005/2006.

More detailed information on most of these activities is provided in the mandates in Annex 1. Where no mandate for an activity is available to date, they will be developed subsequently, agreed within the structure of the CIS and added later to this work programme.

Table 3: Priority activities under the Common Implementation Strategy 2005/2006 including attribution to the Working Groups and tentative timeframe for start and completion of work

No	Key activities	Responsible Group	Tentative timeframe
A1	Intercalibration exercise	WG A – Ecological Status (led by JRc)	Results reported to Committee in July 2006
A2	Eutrophication guidance	WG A – Ecological Status (led by DG ENV)	Guidance by end 2005
B1	Integration of pilot river basins into all CIS activities	WG B – IRBM	Outcome report in Dec 2006
B2	Information sheets on cost-effectiveness	WG B – IRBM (led by FR)	Information sheets as specified in the mandate
B3	Link to research and Article 5 evaluation	WG B – IRBM (led by SP/NL)	Various products, finalised in late 2005
B4	Water scarcity	WG B – IRBM (led by FR) (also linked to EU Water Initiative)	Information sheets by the end 2005

¹¹ COM(2004)472 final of 12.07.2004

Table 3: (Continued)

No	Key activities	Responsible Group	Tentative timeframe
C1	Preparatory work on groundwater	WG C – Groundwater	Ongoing
E1	Preparatory work on priority substances	WG E – Priority Substances*	Mandate to be developed later
F1	Preparatory work on flooding	Stakeholder meeting on Flooding	Ongoing
C2	Chemical monitoring	DG Chemical monitoring linked to WG C and E	Mandate to be developed later
D1	Reporting and GIS – development of WISE and reporting guidance 2007 and 2010	WG D – Reporting	Reporting guidance on monitoring end 2005 and on RBMP mid 2007
S1	Link of Agriculture / WFD	Strategic Steering Group (led by UK and DG ENV)	Summary report with key results end 2006
S2	Improving integration of WFD in other policy areas – regional policy, transport/navigation, energy/hydropower (agriculture and research see separate point)	Strategic Co-ordination Group	Ongoing
S3	Environmental objectives	Strategic Co-ordination Group	Stepwise work programme according to discussion paper
S4	Improvement of transboundary co-operation	Strategic Co-ordination Group	Mandate to be defined later

Note:

* WG E on Priority substances will only be established after the finalisation of the Commission proposal under Art.16

4 Organisational aspects

Overall, the new organisations and working structures established in 2003 proved to be valuable, effective and widely accepted. Thus, the general set up under the CIS process should be kept and the four existing Working Groups should continue their successful work. These groups¹² are:

- Working Group A on “Ecological Status” (ECOSTAT)
- Working Group B on “Integrated River Basin Management” (IRBM)
- Working Group C on “Groundwater” (GW)
- Working Group D on “Reporting” (REP)

¹² Note: the abbreviated naming of the Working Groups was slightly modified to letters A, B, C, and D instead of 2.A, 2.B, 2.C and 2.D for reasons of simplification.

In addition, a number of modifications are introduced in order to reflect the new working priorities and the new stages of co-operation.

Following and subject to the adoption of a Commission proposal of a Directive on priority substances, the Expert Advisory Forum will be transformed into a Working Group, similar to the working arrangements for groundwater which have proven to be effective. This new **Working Group E on Priority Substances** would deal with some preparatory work on the implementation of the priority substance related issues of the WFD (selection of substances, monitoring, EQS setting, source screening and emission controls). In addition, a sub-group on chemical monitoring is proposed which continues the work of the Expert Group on Analysis and Monitoring of Priority Substances (AMPS) and addresses, at the same time similar issues for monitoring chemical pollutants in groundwaters. This new sub-group would be associated with both Working Groups C (Groundwater) and WG E (Priority Substance).

Another addition is the re-establishment of an **Expert Network on Geographical Information Systems (GIS)**. This group will be established as part of the Working Group D. This Working Group will be responsible for the steering of the GIS experts since its products will be essential tools to improve and facilitate electronic reporting and the further development of the “Water Information System for Europe” (WISE).

As mentioned above, the European Commission will be starting to develop an appropriate instrument on flood protection which will be closely linked to the Water Framework Directive. With the positive experience under the CIS process, a new **Expert Advisory or Stakeholder Forum on Flood Protection** will ensure the necessary consultation of Member States, other countries, stakeholders and NGOs in the preparatory process.

Moreover, the **Strategic Steering Group on Agriculture** and WFD shall be established as a stand alone group on the same level as the Strategic Co-ordination Group which directly reports to the Water Directors and, if requested, to the Rural Directors. However, close links and information exchange should be ensured from this group to the SCG and the relevant Working Groups, in particular WB B on IRBM. In particular, mechanisms for close interactions between the SCG and this new group shall be established. The Strategic Steering Group should involve strategic experts from the water and the agricultural policy side and invite all interested countries, stakeholder and NGO groups.

Finally, the work on **environmental objectives** will be led by the Commission (DG ENV), elaborated by a Drafting Team and directly reported to the Strategic Coordination Group. A mandate has not been defined but will be set iteratively as the discussion emerges.

An overview on the new organisational structure is provided in Annex 3.

5 Concluding remarks

Two stages of the collaborative work on the WFD implementation on EU level have been successfully completed. The first phase in 2001/2002 was dominated by the development of eleven Guidance Documents on key aspects of the Directive. In the second phase during 2003/2004, further four guidance documents, several information sheets and other strategic documents (e.g. the reporting concept paper and the principles and communication of the first Art. 5 analysis) emerged. However, the emphasis shifted towards two main priorities: intercalibration and pilot river basin testing. Moreover, the formal aspects of the implementation came more to the forefront. The discussions on reporting requirements intensified and the first reporting

deadlines in the WFD expired. To date, approximately 75% of the EU25 Member States have submitted the required reports¹³. Although this is an encouraging figure, it also says that 25% of the Member States have not reported what was required. In addition, the quality of the submitted reports still needs to be assessed.

Furthermore, the “Daughter Directives” emerged or are about to emerge which completes the regulatory scope of this framework legislation. Also the intercalibration discussions were more formalised through the WFD Committee because of the necessary preparations of the Commission Decision on the network of sites.

Despite some differences of opinion in-between the Member States and with the European Commission, the Common Implementation Strategy process established a constructive platform for dialogue. In addition, it ensures that other important joint activities are being carried out for the benefit of the WFD implementation irrespectively of the formal discussions in other forums.

Moving into the next stages of the Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive is based on the firm believe that this cooperative process provides benefits and added value for everybody involved. Not surprisingly, the WFD and its implementation strategy is quoted as an example for good governance on EU level¹⁴.

The new Work Programme 2005/2006 for the WFD Common Implementation Strategy continues on the successful path and sets out clear priorities where working together is beneficial for all participating parties. The Work Programme also provides for a specific activity on identifying future priorities and emerging issues and introduces an even more flexible mechanism to select and de-select working areas. In addition to the focus of the previous phases (in particular intercalibration and pilot river basins), the years 2005/2006 will intensify the efforts on integration of the WFD into other major policy areas such as agriculture, cohesion policy, research, transport and hydropower.

The work under the Common Implementation Strategy over the coming years will foster the processes on EU, national and river basin level of moving successfully from the “basin-wide characterisation and analysis towards the establishment of the river basin management plans”. The year 2009 is closer than we think; let’s use the time jointly, wisely, efficiently and successfully!

¹³ For updated information on the status of reporting, refer to the “WFD Scoreboard”:
<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/water-framework/transposition.html>

¹⁴ E.g. Mid-term review of Prodi Commission:
http://europa.eu.int/comm/commissioners/prodi/pdf/mid-term_en.pdf

Glossary

COM or ENV	European Commission (mainly referring to the responsible unit DG Environment B.1)
CIS	Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive
DT	Drafting Team
EAF	Expert Advisory Fora under the Common Implementation Strategy
ECOSTAT	Ecological Status
EN	Expert Network
GIGs	Geographical Intercalibration Groups
GIS	Geographical Information System
GW	Groundwater
IRBM	Integrated River Basin Management
PRB	Pilot River Basins
PS	Priority Substances
REP	Reporting
SCG	Strategic Co-ordination Group
SC	Strategic Co-ordinator (e.g. of Member State)
ST	Steering or Preparatory Team
WD	Water Directors
WGs	Working Groups under the Common Implementation Strategy
WGL	Working Group Leader
WG A	Working Group on Ecological Status
WG B	Working Group on Integrated River Basin Management
WG C	Working Group on Groundwater
WG D	Working Group on Reporting
WG E	Working Group on Priority Substances
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WISE	Water Information System for Europe

Annex 1 - Organisation and tasks of Working Groups and Activities under the WFD Common Implementation Strategy in 2005/2006

The working structure agreed for the Work Programme 2003/2004 under the WFD Common Implementation Strategy was more streamlined in comparison to the first phase. In addition, certain pragmatic working experiences and procedures have been established in 2001/2002 which were necessary so that the Guidance Document could be prepared. The former working groups have thereby established a number of additional groups such as steering groups, drafting groups and expert groups.

For the new work programme 2005/2006, the operational changes agreed earlier should be continued, in particular that one working group will run several activities in parallel. This Annex sets out the mandates for this work programme and in particular for the following working groups and activities:

1. Mandates for Working Groups “Ecological Status” (WG A), “IRBM” (WG B), “Groundwater” (WG C) and “Reporting” including the GIS activity (WG D). The mandate for a new Working Group on “Priority Substances” (WG E) and a new “Chemical Monitoring Activity” link to the WGs C and E will be prepared and presented to the SCG at a later stage and agreed by the next Water Directors meeting; and
2. Mandates for activities “intercalibration” and “eutrophication” (both WG A), “information exchange, new issues and research”, “pilot river basin testing”, “water scarcity” and “cost effectiveness assessment” (all WG B) and “guidance for reporting under the WFD” and “GIS” (both WG D) and
3. Mandate for an activity on “WFD and Agriculture” carried out by a new Strategic Steering Group to be established.

This focus of activities is below the threshold set by the decision of the Water Directors to limit the number of activities to a maximum of four in parallel.

As in the earlier work programme, the structure and organisation shall avoid the situation that additional groups or sub-groups are established on a permanent basis. However, additional supporting groups are essential for the Working Groups in preparing the agreed deliverables within the short time and the high quality envisaged. Hence, a distinction should be made between permanent Working Groups and ad-hoc supporting groups, which are established on a temporary basis to support the Working Groups. Thereby, it is important to get a common understanding of the terms and the mandates of the different permanent and ad-hoc groups.

In order to facilitate the distinction between permanent and ad-hoc structures, the supporting structures are named as “teams”, “workshops” or “network” rather than “groups”.

The Working Group has the possibility to establish such other groups including Preparatory or Steering Teams, Expert Workshops and Drafting Teams in support of their tasks if it is necessary to fulfil the mandate that is set out by the Work Programme of the Common Implementation Strategy. It is the responsibility of the Working Group to report on a regular basis to the SCG on the different other groups, their progress, their way of operation and their work intensity.

The following different “groups” are mentioned in this Annex:

Permanent structures

Working Group (WG): The key group or plenary which is preparing, discussing, consulting and agreeing the documents or deliverables for the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG) which were agreed by the mandates. All Member States, other countries in the CIS, stakeholders and NGOs can nominate experts to these groups which leads to an average size of 30 – 40 members.

Working Group leaders (WGL): The experts from countries, European bodies or organisations which have committed themselves to take the lead and be responsible for the implementation of the work programme for the group. Given the broad range and scale of the tasks for each of the new WGs, between two to three co-leaders have been identified in order to share the burden of organisational and preparatory work.

Ad-hoc structures

Steering or Preparatory Team (ST) The team of WG leaders is sometimes joined by some individuals of the WG who would like to be more actively involved in the preparation of the WG meetings and the steering of the work. Given that the WG leaders may already be up to five individuals, a ST may include up to 10 participants of the WG. The establishment of a ST is an internal working arrangement of a WG. The ST normally meet just before or just after a WG meeting (for preparation of arrangements or follow-up).

Example: A Steering Team for the eutrophication exercise has been established to support the preparation of the guidance document.

Drafting Team (DT) A number of active members of the Working Group are invited to prepare a specific document for the Working Group meeting. Often, a specific activity or task requires the preparation of a Guidance or working document (e.g. classification). A drafting team is assisting the WG leaders to do the necessary preparatory work in order to ensure that the WG can deliver its agreed outputs within the timetable foreseen and with the high level of quality necessary. The drafting team is not a permanent sub-group of the WG but a temporary (or ad-hoc) preparatory group to assist the WG (see criteria for establishing DT below).

Example: A Drafting Team exist within the WG on Reporting.

Expert Network or Expert Workshops External experts mainly from Member States and other countries are gathered on an “ad-hoc” basis if and when the necessary in-depth expertise on a certain subject is not available in the WG. The WG defines the task for the experts and the members of the WG are invited to nominate the appropriate expert.

Example: Such arrangements were made for the intercalibration work where specific expertise on lakes, rivers, transitional and coastal waters is regularly needed. Also the Expert Advisory Forum on Priority Substances works successfully with a number of Expert Networks.

Criteria for ad-hoc supporting structures

In order to ensure that, in particular, the drafting teams and other supporting structures are working within defined limits that avoid them becoming full, permanent WGs, the following criteria should be considered by the Working Groups when establishing an ad-hoc or supporting group:

- First, the “supporting groups” are limited in scope and time. Their mandate should be, in principle, less than one year. If it is considered necessary by the Working Group to give a mandate longer than one year, the Strategic Co-ordination group should finally decide upon the mandate for this “drafting group”;
- Second, the Working Group prepares a precise mandate or terms of references (ToR) for each “supporting group”;
- Third, the “supporting group” should present a table of contents and an outline to be agreed upon by the relevant Group before it starts drafting the document;
- Fourth, the “supporting group” should work with the highest possible level of transparency in order to enable the members of the Working Group to follow and, if necessary, contribute to the work of the “supporting group” at any time;
- Fifth, the “supporting group” should present regularly the latest draft documents to the Working Group and invite for comments (at the meeting or in writing). The “supporting group” should provide feedback on whether and how the comments were taken into account; and
- Sixth, all WG members would in principle have the right to propose a member for a “supporting group”, provided they made an active contribution to the drafting process. In practice, it is unlikely that all members of the CIS process would want to be involved in the drafting but could be consulted on technical level through the WGs. Ideally, “drafting teams” should have less than 10 members. If the interest for a “drafting teams” exceeds 10 participants, it should be the Strategic Co-ordination Group which finally decides upon the establishment of that “drafting team”.

Annex 1.1 Working Group A – Ecological Status

I. Introduction

At the meeting of Water Directors in Amsterdam in December 2004, it was decided to continue the work on ecological status within the WG A (ECOSTAT) which has a central role in the coordination of the intercalibration exercise, as well as other issues related to harmonised monitoring and assessment of ecological quality of surface waters (e.g. through the development of eutrophication guidance).

The EC-Joint Research Centre, Germany and the UK will continue as the leads for the ECOSTAT WG.

The following sections outline the objectives, key activities and timetables for 2005-2006 for Working Group A on Ecological Status.

II. Objectives

The main objective for Working Group A on ecological status is to provide Member States and Accession Countries with guidance on ecological status classification, to provide coordination for the intercalibration process, and to ensure transparent and coherent results of the intercalibration exercise. The WG has to ensure the delivery of the products as agreed by the SCG/ WDs.

The main focus of the work in 2005-2006 is the coordination and facilitation of the intercalibration exercise.

III. Key Activities

Key activities under Working Group A “Ecological Status” in 2005-2006 are:

1. Coordinate the WFD intercalibration exercise and report the results;
2. Develop further guidance on harmonised assessment of eutrophication;
3. Provide recommendations to Strategic Coordination Group, Water Directors and/or the WFD Committee on: (a) biological monitoring methods for which harmonisation is needed and where standardisation is possible; and (b) which standardised methods should be added to Annex V 1.3.6 of the Directive.

More detailed activity sheets are presented below for those activities, which are already on going, such as intercalibration (Activity 1) and eutrophication (Activity 2). Activity 3 on monitoring and harmonization has already started within a task team under the WG A, and it is now proposed to continue as an on-going activity in parallel to intercalibration and the preparation of the eutrophication guidance. For future activities, specific activity sheets will be prepared by the WG for discussion and agreement in the SCG.

IV. Overall Timetable

The timetable below specifies the activities for which the Working Group will prepare concrete deliverables.

Activity/ task	Issues	Duration	Main Deliverables
1	Intercalibration exercise	2005-2006	1) Analysis of consistency and comparability of the IC network 2) Final report on intercalibration exercise: values for harmonised classification boundaries 3) Proposals for the revision of the intercalibration network
2	Eutrophication	2005	Guidance document
3	Monitoring & Harmonisation	2005-2006	Overview report of common classification tools/ metrics applied in the intercalibration exercise Reports to WG A on needs for harmonisation & proposals for standardisation

V. Lead country/body

The working group is lead jointly by the EC Joint Research Center (JRC), Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES), UK and Germany.

Name	Organisation/ Member State	E-mail
Peter Pollard	SEPA (UK)	Peter.Pollard@sepa.org.uk
Ulrich Irmer	UBA (Germany)	ulrich.irmer@uba.de
Wouter van de Bund	JRC-IES	wouter.van-de-bund@jrc.it
Anna-Stiina Heiskanen	JRC-IES	anna-stiina.heiskanen@jrc.it

VI. Participants

All Member States, other countries in the CIS, stakeholders and NGOs can nominate experts to this group through their representative in the Strategic Coordination Group. The intercalibration exercise will be carried out between Member States, which share similar types of surface water and which are organised in Geographical Intercalibration Groups (GIGs). There are currently 15 GIGs covering all surface water categories, Member States and other countries (Norway, Bulgaria, Romania). Each GIG has a nominated informal GIG coordinator, who is invited as a member of the Working Group A. CEN is also represented to input on matters of standardisation.

VII. Links with other activities including Pilot River Basins

The activities of Working Group A (specifically intercalibration and development of Eutrophication Guidance) are linked to the pilot river basin testing exercise of Working Group B.

Some Pilot River Basins are invited to 1) initiate testing of the classification guidance; 2) join the appropriate GIG activities in applying the boundary setting framework; 3) bring together datasets needed in the intercalibration exercise; 4) start validation of the classification tools developed in national and international research projects (e.g. FAME, STAR, REBECCA); 5) compare the applicability of promising classification tools as common metrics for harmonised assessment of ecological quality; and 6) to report their results directly to Working Group A

The activities of the WG A, especially concerning the reporting of the intercalibration results, are also closely linked to development of the web based reporting system WISE under the WG D.

The working group leaders are responsible for ensuring that any key issues identified by the working group are co-ordinated within the activities of Working Groups B and C.

VIII. Type and intensity of the work

Working Group A will meet approximately twice a year. In addition, working group leaders meetings will be held when necessary.

WG A has established an organisational structure to complete **Task 1** (intercalibration exercise, see Activity sheet 1). The practical work in the intercalibration process is carried out in the Geographical Intercalibration Groups (GIGs), following the timetables set out in the *Intercalibration Guidance*¹⁵. One (or several) of the Member States in each GIG acts as an informal GIG co-ordinator. An intercalibration steering group consisting of the EU Joint Research Centre (JRC) and representatives of the rivers, lakes, coastal & transitional waters expert groups, summarises the reports of GIGs for the WG A, and take care of the day-to-day coordination of the process, ensuring also linkages between different water categories and GIGs within those.

The GIGs are proposed to meet 2-3 times per year (before the WG A meetings), if possible, for completion of the steps in the intercalibration process, and for preparation of the intermediate progress reports as an input to the WG A meetings. Such meetings are necessary in order to deliver the intermediate milestones and reports before the final report on the results of the intercalibration exercise for the SCG and Article 21 Committee in 2006.

For the **Task 2** (eutrophication), a steering team has been established for preparation of the draft documents and guidance. The composition of the steering team is presented in the Activity sheet 2 (Mandate for the Eutrophication activity). Additionally, the steering team will organise expert workshops to discuss and review the draft documents and provide input for the further development of the guidance.

Further, a small drafting team has been already established to prepare the compile information and draft the documents concerning the **Task 3** on monitoring methods and harmonization needs. The composition of the drafting team is presented in the Activity sheet 3, and it is proposed that this group will form the steering team for this activity.

¹⁵ Guidance on the Intercalibration Process, [final draft 4.1; 19/11/04]

New information on monitoring and assessment methods that are appropriate as common metrics and potentially feasible for harmonization of methods between different Member States, will become available during the intercalibration exercise. The steering team for the monitoring/ harmonization activity is open for any new volunteers to join.

Additionally, other drafting teams may need to be mandated to prepare specific discussion papers and proposals on the various technical issues. These drafting teams will be of a temporary nature. The working group leaders will facilitate the co-ordination and exchange of information for related activities to all relevant networks, including the arrangement of workshops or presentations.

In 2005, the meeting of the Working Group A will be in March at JRC in Ispra, Italy, with a second meeting scheduled for October, at JRC, Ispra, Italy. In addition, one meeting of the steering team on eutrophication activity is scheduled for in December 2004, and a workshop during the first half of 2005.

WG A – Ecological Status
Activity sheet 1 - Intercalibration

i. Objectives

The objectives for the intercalibration exercise are to ensure that the class boundaries (for good ecological status) that are established are (a) consistent with the normative definitions in (Annex V) Section 1.2 and are (b) comparable between Member States and Accession Countries.

This ensures a harmonised approach to define one of the main environmental objectives of the WFD, the 'good ecological status', by establishing:

- Agreed ecological criteria for good quality sites, setting the targets for protection and restoration;
- Agreed numerical Ecological Quality Ratio (EQR) values for each Member States biological assessment systems for two quality class boundaries (high/good and good/moderate).

Further information can be obtained from 'Towards a guidance on establishment of the intercalibration network and the process on the intercalibration exercise (2002)' and from "Guidance on Intercalibration process (2004)"¹⁶

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

- Coordinate, provide guidance for, and report on, the WFD intercalibration exercise;
- Ensure transparent, consistent approaches and comparable results of the intercalibration exercise between Geographical Intercalibration Groups (GIGs) and between different surface water categories;
- Assess whether the boundaries for good status for the biological quality elements indicated by Member States and other Countries are consistent with the Directive's normative definitions and comparable between Member States and Accession Countries;
- Review the proposed boundary values and recommend consistent and comparable values for boundaries of good status for the each Member States biological assessment systems, as measured by relevant monitoring systems.
- Review and agree on the report for the results of the intercalibration exercise, that will be published by the Commission at the end of 2006; and
- Review the intercalibration network in the light of the results of the intercalibration exercise, and identify sites that correspond to the agreed boundaries for good status.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

The timetable below sets out the milestones for the process of the intercalibration exercise. In addition, the elaboration of the report on the results of the intercalibration exercise will start during the second half of 2005 and will be finalised by mid-2006. A more detailed timetable and milestones is presented in the "Guidance for Intercalibration process"(cf. footnote 16).

General timetable of the intercalibration process is presented in the table below, including GIG milestones (M1-M5), WG A Ecological Status meetings (indicated by X), and draft (D1-D2) and final (F) reports of the intercalibration exercise.

¹⁶ Both documents are available under:
http://forum.europa.eu.int/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents/intercalibration&vm=detailed&sb=Title

	2004						2005						2006																																																															
	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																														
GIG milestones	M1		M2					M3											M4												M5																M6																													
Steering Group	Summarise GIG progress reports and prepare WG meetings																																																																											
WG2A	X			X					X											X														X														X																												
SCG	Regular progress reports																																																																											
IC Report																																			D1																	D2																		F	Translation, Committee agreement					

Descriptions of the contents of each milestone report, and the expected reporting times are presented in the table below. For more detailed description of the milestones see the Intercalibration Guidance.

Summary of milestones for the work in the GIGs for the intercalibration process			
		Reporting date	WG A meeting date
M1	Report of progress to WGA: - composition and co-ordination - first suggestions re. Options - first results if pilot work	7-8 July 2004	7-8 July 2004
M2	Preparation GIG work plan: - proposed option(s) - proposed common metrics (if applicable), identify needs for new data collection - first proposal boundary setting procedure - Outline of timetable	17 Sept 2004	7-8 Oct 2004
M3	Report GIG progress - First report of boundary setting procedure (using internet reporting structure) (including principles to set reference conditions) ¹⁷ - Overview of data requirements	2 weeks before WG A meeting	March 2005
M4	Progress report: - Report on ongoing application of boundary setting procedure (using internet reporting structure) - Identification of intercalibration sites representing agreed class boundaries	2 weeks before WG A meeting	October 2005
M5	Report GIG progress - Report on ongoing application of boundary setting procedure (using internet reporting structure) - Identification of inconsistencies within the GIG	2 weeks before WG A meeting	February 2006
M6	Type-specific reports including EQR boundary values and identification of sites representing good status boundaries	2 weeks before WG A meeting	June 2006

¹⁷ For this first report GIGs may choose to focus on specific common intercalibration types, pressures and/or quality elements

iv. Contact person/s

The Institute for Environment and Sustainability (IES) of the EC Joint Research Centre (EC JRC) will be leading this activity through the EEWAI (European Centre for Ecological Water Quality and Intercalibration). The contact persons are:

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Wouter van-de-Bund	EC JRC-IES	wouter.van-de-bund@jrc.it
Anna-Stiina Heiskanen	EC JRC-IES	anna-stiina.heiskanen@jrc.it

v. Participants

The Working Group A Members are already nominated. In addition there are expert networks, where there are one nominated water category specific contact person for each country and each GIG. Each GIG is coordinated by one (or several) informal GIG coordinator, according to the table below.

Category	Geographical Intercalibration Group (GIG)	No of countries belonging	Informal coordinator of the GIG
Rivers	R- Northern (RNO)	5	Sweden (tbc)
	R- Central (RCE)	19	steering group: FR, GE, UK, (JRC)
	R- Alpine (RAL)	6	Austria
	R- E. Cont. (REC)	8	ICPDR*
	R- Med. (RME)	8	Portugal
Lakes	L- Northern (LNO)	5	Sweden (tbc)
	L- Atlantic (LAT)	4	Ireland
	L- Central (LCE)	13	steering group: DK, NL, PL, UK, LV, LT (JRC)
	L- Alpine (LAL)	4	Austria
	L- E Cont. (LEC)	8	ICPDR*
	L- Med. (LME)	8	Spain
Coastal and transitional waters	CT- Baltic (CBA)	8	Denmark
	CT- NE Atl. (CNE)	11	UK
	CT- Med. (CME)	7	Italy
	CT- Black Sea (CBL)	2	RO

vi. Type and intensity of work

The Lakes, Rivers, and Coastal/Transitional Waters expert groups are subdivided in Geographical Intercalibration Groups (GIGs, indicated in green), that will carry out the practical work. An Intercalibration Steering Group consisting of JRC and representatives of the water category expert groups.

In order to complete the intercalibration exercise, the following organizational structure has been established (Fig. 1):

1. The intercalibration process is carried out under the umbrella of Working Group A Ecological Status.
2. Working Group A Ecological Status is responsible for evaluating the results of the intercalibration exercise and making recommendations to the Strategic Coordination Group or WFD Committee, as and when appropriate.
3. The practical work is carried out in the Geographical Intercalibration Groups (GIGs), following the definition and the timetable set out in the Intercalibration Guidance¹⁸.
4. One of the Member States in each GIG acts as an informal GIG co-ordinator¹⁹. An overview of the GIGs including the participating Member States and the informal co-ordinators is presented in the Intercalibration Guidance.
5. The intercalibration steering group consists of the EC Joint Reserch Centre (JRC) and representatives of the rivers, lakes, coastal & transitional waters expert groups. The Steering group will summarise the progress of the different GIGs and evaluate inconsistencies within and between GIGs. It is the task of Working Group A to resolve such inconsistencies.
6. The intercalibration process is facilitated by the EC Joint Reserch Centre, which will provide a 'help-desk, and establish a reporting structure for GIGs.
7. JRC will summarize the intermediate (milestone) reports of GIGs and compile the final (draft) report of the intercalibration exercise to be discussed and agreed in the WG A ecological status.
8. JRC is responsible to regularly report the progress of the intercalibration process to the CIS Strategic Co-ordination Group, the Water Directors, and the Water Framework Directive Committee.
9. The GIG groups should meet 2-3 times per year, preferably 3-4 weeks before each WG A meeting as scheduled in the timetable. GIG coordinators together with Member State experts will prepare a detailed work plan following the intercalibration steps presented in the guidance, and report on the progress for the WG A according to the agreed sequence and timetable

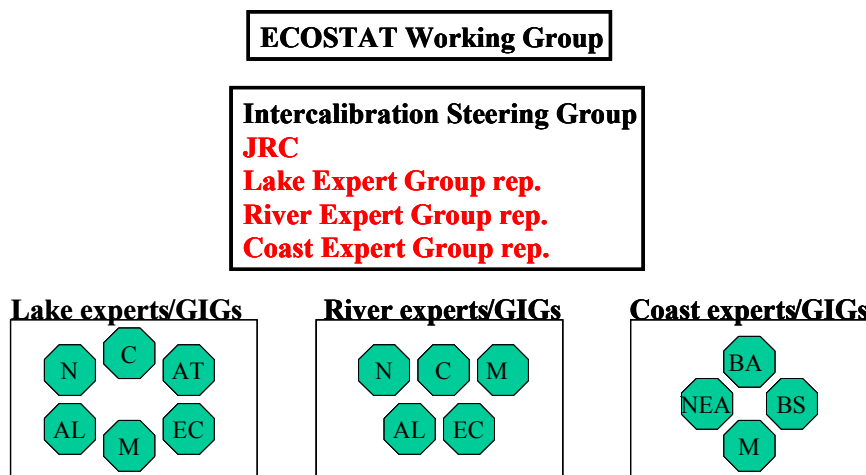


Figure 1: Overview of the organisational structure for the intercalibration process.

¹⁸ Guidance on the Intercalibration Process, [draft 4.1; 19/11/04]

¹⁹ Co-ordination of larger GIGs (e.g. Central rivers and Central lakes) may be too large a task for a single Member State. In those cases, a GIG steering group of several Member State experts could be formed.

WG A – Ecological Status
Activity sheet 2 – Eutrophication Guidance²⁰

i. Introduction

Eutrophication is still one of the major problems for the aquatic environment. This process is caused by elevated concentrations of nutrients, and is characterised by excessive algal biomass and frequent algae blooms. The impact of these blooms is manifold and can include decreased oxygen concentrations, decreased water transparency and production of algal toxins.

The environmental problem of eutrophication is addressed in several EU policies. Nutrients levels to describe the water quality were introduced in several early piece of EU water legislation (e.g. Fishwater Directive 78/659/EEC). The main anthropogenic sources of high nutrient loads were addressed in two directives in 1991. The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) addresses the major point sources, namely the municipal wastewater discharges. The Nitrates Directive (91/616/EEC) deals with the diffuse pollution of nitrogen from agriculture. The directives define “eutrophication”, sensitive areas and vulnerable zones to be designated for the purpose of fighting eutrophication, and provide for measures to combat it. Although no detailed eutrophication assessment criteria were defined in the directives, further specifications were elaborated in the implementation process. In particular, the infringements procedures and the subsequent rulings of the Court of Justice have clarified the objectives and requirements of these pieces of legislation as regards eutrophication.

Also in the context of air legislation, the assessment of the acceptable level of air emissions of nitrous oxides and ammonia were discussed using the “critical loads” approach. This has been used in the context of the development of emission ceilings.

In 2000, the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) introduced, amongst other requirements, a comprehensive ecological quality assessment for all waters which describes the quality of the waters (looking at the whole water cycle in a holistic manner) with a number of biological, hydromorphological and physico-chemical quality elements (cf. Annex V 1.1 and V 1.2). Amongst these quality elements, there are several parameters which enable the assessment of the eutrophication status of a water body, e.g. phytoplankton, macrophytes, nutrient levels. The ecological assessment is based on a set of type specific reference conditions with which the actual status of the waters has to be compared. It is unclear, however, how this assessment works in detail and how it can be used for the purpose of pieces of legislation mentioned above.

Finally, the EU Marine Strategy (COM(2002) 539 final) aims, amongst others, at eliminating eutrophication and identifies priority actions including a review of the identification of the problematic marine areas through a harmonised assessment.

From this overview, it is apparent that eutrophication has been identified as a priority in European policy and although substantial progress has been made, there are a number of areas where co-ordination is necessary to achieve a harmonised result for the different policy areas, in particular:

- *the harmonisation of assessment methodologies and criteria trophic status assessment and rating in rivers, lakes, transitional, coastal and marine waters;*
- *the co-ordination of monitoring and reporting;*
- *the harmonisation of models for assessing or predicting anthropogenic or natural nutrient loading into inland and marine waters based on nutrient sources information or nutrient sources scenarios;*
- *the systematic identification of sources.*

²⁰ *Agreed mandate on eutrophication will be incorporated into the work programme 2005/2006 after the water directors' meeting*

Ultimately, it should be the aim to develop a good understanding of the relationships between the response (eutrophication) and the causes (which nutrients, nutrient inputs, nutrient concentrations, the water-sediment interface and nutrient transfers – rivers to marine systems, factors other than nutrients) in order to develop quantitative, predictive models. If we are able to develop such models we could quantify appropriate reductions in nutrient inputs as well as the most cost-effective solutions for achieving these reductions.

The purpose of the proposed activity under the Common Implementation Strategy of the Water Framework Directive and the European Marine Strategy should be restricted to the first and second bullet points above; the harmonisation of assessment methodologies and criteria and aspects on monitoring and reporting. These tasks are already very wide and complex since it will have to be differentiated between lakes, rivers, transitional, coastal and marine waters and between the different types of waters that exist.

However, this activity has to be based firmly on the methodological concept of the Water Framework Directive and to explore thereafter, to what extent this methodology can be used in the context of other directives and policies (taking into account their implementation and, where relevant, the respective Court rulings). The final outcome of this activity should be a guidance and/or other supporting document for the purpose of the implementation of the above-mentioned policies.

In consequence, this activity is associated with Working Group A: Ecological Status of the WFD-CIS process. At the same time, the process described below should enable other experts who are not part of Working Group A to contribute to the task, *inter alia*, work in the context of the development of the European Marine Strategy.

ii. Objectives and key issues

The objective of this activity is to provide guidance on harmonisation of methods and assessments, in particular as regards ecological status assessment, in relation to the environmental problem of eutrophication. As a basic principle, the overall approaches and methods for assessment shall be based on concepts set out by the Water Framework Directive and existing guidance documents.

More specifically, this activity, which should finally lead to a guidance document, should address the following key issues in three progressive phases:

Phase 1

- a) Develop an overview and common understanding of how eutrophication is addressed in the Water Framework Directive and other European directives and policies (e.g. Directive 91/271/EEC, Directive 91/676/EEC, EMMA, OSPAR, HELCOM). In addition, the link and synergies to the Habitat Directive should be explored.
- b) Specify a common understanding of the term eutrophication for the purpose of the WFD, UWWT Directive and the Nitrates Directive.
- c) Develop a conceptual framework for classifying ecological status in relation to the effects of nutrient enrichment. This should, *inter alia*, consider biological and general physicochemical quality elements and clarify what is meant by undesirable disturbance.

Phase 2

- d) Collation of practical examples of the application of the assessment framework identified in Phase 1. This should, *inter alia*, include methods for deriving biological and physicochemical values consistent with the Intercalibration exercise, and if possible, agreement on representative ranges for different status classes on a type-specific and/or ecoregion basis consistent with CIS Classification Guidance.
- e) Collation of a toolbox of technical methods for predicting the risk of eutrophication and assessing the impact of nutrient enrichment.

- f) *Identify the priority R & D work needed to help improve the ability of Member States to assess and manage eutrophication under the WFD.*

Phase 3

- g) *Specify the applicability of the approach developed to different European directives and policies.*
- h) *Contribute to Reporting Guidance by identifying minimum monitoring and data requirements for assessing eutrophication (in close cooperation with WG D on Reporting).*

The guidance should be based on the existing guidance documents under the WFD implementation process (in particular REFCOND, COAST, intercalibration, monitoring and classification), the experience gained in other EU Directives (e.g. Nitrates, UWWT), in particular the workshop carried out in May 2002, the experiences gained in international marine conventions (e.g. OSPAR, HELCOM), other relevant research (CHARM, REBECCA), the work of the Joint Research Centre and any other relevant existing work on this issue (e.g. OECD guidelines).

The approach that is being developed may be stepwise taking into account, inter alia, the aspects of typology-based standard setting and river basin assessment.

iii. Tasks and expected outcomes

The expected outcome of this activity would be further guidance document (Working Title: "Assessment of eutrophication in European water policy"), and if useful, additional documentation, to harmonise the ecological quality assessment in relation to eutrophication and support the implementation process in the relevant policy areas.

Taking into account the three phases identified above, the following three main organisational steps can be identified:

- a. *Identify the scope, key issues to be addressed, the approach and the organisation of the work;*
- b. *Elaboration of the approach and collation of practical examples and a toolbox of technical methods to use. Specialised input may be required for rivers, lakes, transitional and marine waters, but any parallel work will be integrated under the umbrella of CIS Working Group A ECOSTAT.*
- c. *Synthesis of the results into overall guidance for assessing eutrophication appropriate to specific European policies.*

*During the **first step**, an annotated content of the overall guidance should be elaborated and agreed upon. Starting point for this are the key elements listed in Section (ii) above.*

*For this purpose, a **first workshop (1)** will be organised during the third quarter of 2004, to make agreements on (i) the draft scoping document, (ii) the key issues, (iii) how to organise the process and (iv) the mechanism for the gathering of the relevant data and information. As regards the working process, the workshop should also discuss the most appropriate way of defining any parallel work streams.*

*Terms of Reference for the work to be carried out during the **second step** and in the agreed parallel work streams (e.g. rivers, lakes and transitional/marine waters) should specify the content, the task, the deadlines and the responsible co-lead. The organisation of the work (the HOW to do it) will be the responsibility of the co-lead.*

The marine aspects of this activity should be elaborated in the context of, and provide feedback to, the Marine Strategy Working Group on European Marine Monitoring and Assessment (EMMA)²¹.

During the **third step**, the outcome of the parallel work streams will be brought together in an **interim workshop (2)**, to take place in 2005. This workshop should, *inter alia*, identify (i) the key open points that will need to be addressed before finalising the guidance and (ii) the way in which this should be done. In this respect, it consideration could be given as to whether further work in parallel work streams (e.g. as regards ecoregions) is necessary to complete the work.

The results of the interim workshop should be presented and discussed by the ECOSTAT WG and working groups under other relevant policy areas. The aim of these discussions should be to make agreements on the way forward, which could include, if necessary, the organisation of a **final workshop (3)** in 2006. If necessary the final workshop should discuss the draft guidance before presenting it to the SCG and the WD and to the partner organisation of the European Marine Strategy.

As part of the final output of the activity, *inter alia*, the following products could be envisaged:

- a. Documents for discussion in ECOSTAT Working Group A and information from Committees under 91/271/EEC and 91/616/EEC and the European Marine Strategy.
- b. Compilations of relevant information, in particular for different water categories and/or ecoregions.
- c. Draft guidance document "Assessment of eutrophication in European Water Policy" (Working Title) for discussion and agreement by Strategic Coordination Group (SCG), Water Directors (WD).

iv. Detailed timetable and milestones

The activity will start in the second quarter of 2004 and a final guidance should be available in 2005 at the latest. A more detailed timetable is set out below.

Activity	Issues	Duration (Quarters)								Main Deliverables	
		2004				2005					
		1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
1	Identify scope and content of activity										Table of content
2	Presentation and discussion in ECOSTAT WG										Discussion documents for ECOSTAT WG
3a	First workshop										
3b	Interim workshop										
3c	Final workshop (optional)										
4	Compile information										Background documents (if useful)
5	Finalisation of										Guidance document

²¹ EMMA had its first meeting on 9 October 2003. The main aim of the group is to develop a common approach towards monitoring and assessment of the quality status of the European marine environment and to facilitate the implementation of this approach. It will report to EU Water Directors and to the governing bodies of all partner organisations.

	Eutrophication Guidance								
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v. Lead

The Commission (DG Environment) will take the overall lead of the activity. In addition, others partners will be invited to act as co-leaders.

Currently, other co-leads are the leaders and chair of the relevant other WGs (WG A, EMMA) and Committees (NiD, UWWT) including colleagues of DG ENV, JRC, UK and Germany. On the first workshop, additional co-leads were identified, in particular from Member States (FIN, NL) and other organisation (EEA) which can provide an added value to the preparation of the deliverables of this process.

The co-leads will assist in the management and steering of the activity. In addition, the co-leads should take responsibility for developing parts of the final product and thereby organising one of the parallel work streams (see below). The leaders and co-leaders will form an Eutrophication Steering Team which will be assisted by a Technical Secretariat.

The overall organisations and management of the whole process is with the lead of this activity. Documents for discussion are prepared by the Steering Team. In addition, specific tasks may be attributed to individual volunteers of the ECOSTAT WG, from other relevant working groups or from the workshops.

vi. Contact/lead person/s

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Ben van de Wetering	DG ENV, D.2	Ben.van-de-Wetering@cec.eu.int

vii. Participants

The CIS Working Group 2A will take responsibility for the process and making recommendations on the outputs to the Strategic Co-ordination Group and the Water Directors.

In addition, for the workshops which will be organised, other experts can be nominated on an ad-hoc basis. The aim should be to invite representatives with different expertise (e.g. freshwater, marine, biologist, chemists and so on) from all interested countries (Member States, Candidate Countries, EEA countries). Furthermore, relevant organisations, in particular the European Environment Agency (EEA) and other organisations with proven expertise and researchers, in particular from relevant EU RTD projects, and representatives from other relevant EU or international institutions shall be invited to the workshops as well.

The workshops should not exceed 50 participants. Hence, a maximum representation per country/organisation may be necessary, ensuring however, a participation of one representative per country/organisation as a minimum.

viii. Working process

As mentioned above, the activity shall be carried out in close cooperation and with contribution from all relevant groups dealing with eutrophication in relation to EU policy, in particular, the Working Groups ECOSTAT and EMMA and the Committees on the Nitrates and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directives. In order to organise and manage such a process in the most transparent and efficient way, the activity is divided into two parts:

- The Consultation Phase (see figure 1)
- The Decision Making Phase (see figure 2).

The **Consultation Phase** will be characterised by the dissemination of documents to all groups and by the attempt to enable contributions from all sides, mainly through the drafting workshops

and possibility to send written comments. The **Decision Making Phase** clarifies that when a product is being finalised and presented for approval to the Water Directors, the preparatory discussions will take place in line with the experience under the Common Implementation Strategy, i.e. the ECOSTAT WG has a final technical discussion, then the Strategic Coordination Group discusses the documents to be presented to the Water Directors. The other groups will be informed about the outcome of such discussions.

Figure 1: Consultation Phase

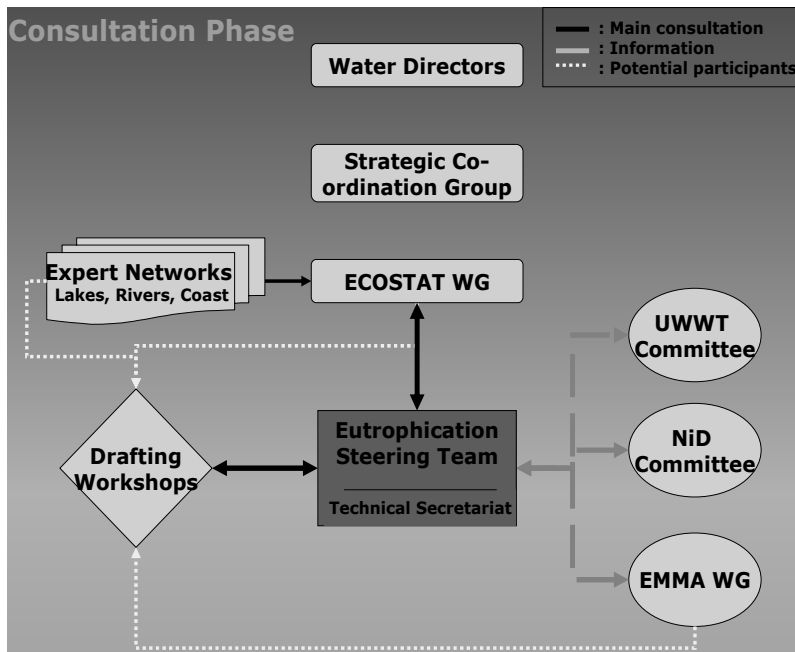
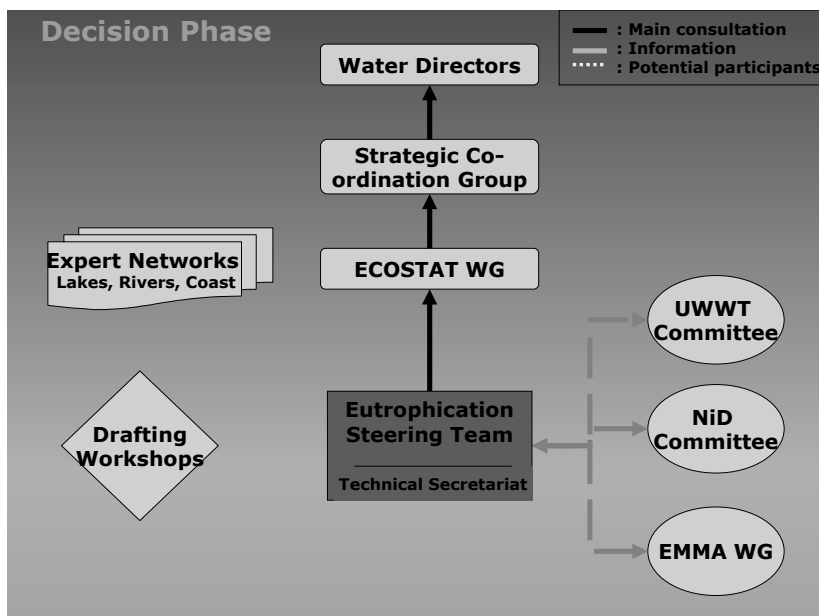


Figure 2: Decision Making Phase



WG A – Ecological Status Activity sheet 3 – Monitoring and Harmonisation

i. Background

The WFD requires (Annex V 1.3.6) that standards methods are used for monitoring of water quality elements: 'Methods used for the monitoring of type parameters shall conform to the international standards listed below **or such other national or international standards** which will ensure the provision of data of an equivalent scientific quality and comparability'.

The lack of comparability of national biological monitoring systems, at sampling, analytical and assessment levels, was identified as an issue in the Intercalibration exercise, with recommendation from the ECOSTAT WG A for an Activity on Harmonisation of these methods.

In 2004, a task to compile an overview of the status and need for harmonisation of freshwater biological methods was carried out within the ECOSTAT by a small drafting group. The objective was to make a concise overview of the national biological monitoring systems, to evaluate their applicability in monitoring and assessment of the ecological quality as required by the WFD and their potential as common metrics to be applied for the harmonised assessment of the water bodies selected in the intercalibration network. A compilation of the information on existing classification systems for coastal and transitional waters in Europe²² was carried out by the COAST expert group in 2001-2. This report needs to be updated to summarise the evolving status of potential classification tools available for the intercalibration process.

The issues that will need further consideration are:

- Currently most Member States are still developing their national biological monitoring systems in compliance with the WFD; there is a need to make information and experience of national methods available across the CIS community.
- The organization of the intercalibration process has developed over in 2004 to be carried out within GIGs. Some GIGs have identified common classification methods or have initiated discussion that will end up with identification of possible common metrics for Intercalibration exercise at the latest by the 1st trimester of 2005. This information needs to be summarized and the status and applicability of the common metrics evaluated with respect of standardization needs.

ii. Objectives:

- To make experience of the development of various national classification methods available across the CIS community
- To evaluate the applicability of the common metrics, proposed by GIGs, with respect of standardization needs;
- To identify methods that have the potential for application over a wide geographical scale and for European standardization,
- To identify the need for the development of such standardised methods.
- Evaluation of the needs to provide further guidance on the establishment of monitoring programmes, with respect of the classification and intercalibration requirements.

²²http://themes.eea.eu.int/Specific_media/water/indicators/WEC2d%2C2003.1017/38_Classifications_rc.pdf

iii. **Tasks and expected outcomes**

To carry on this task there is need for collection of information on the methodologies in development, or just adopted at national level for the purposes of the WFD in the Member States and Candidate Countries, and information of the common metrics tested and adopted within the GIGs for the intercalibration exercise.

The gathered data needs to be analysed to assess the comparability of the sampling; sample processing; data analysis (metric); and assessment methodologies.

The tasks are to

- compile and update information of the biological methods in development or recently adopted for monitoring in compliance with WFD requirements in the Member States and Candidate Countries;
- compile and evaluate information of the common metrics that will be applied by the GIGs for Intercalibration purposes;
- identify areas where there are no common metrics or appropriate methods to harmonisation yet available;
- comparative analysis of different methods and their status (i.e. adopted, in development, standardized at national or international level);
- identify methods and metrics which are used in wide geographical scale and have potential for standardization;
- identify areas where such potential common methods are not yet being developed or tested ('gaps'), and propose areas for such work to be initiated;
- evaluation if further guidance on the monitoring programmes will be needed;
- to establish an operational link between ECOSTAT WG A and CEN, including a process for timely review of methods and their potential for standardisation;
- to review CEN standards, preferably in the drafting stages, on their compatibility and consistency with the WFD.

iv. **Detailed timetable and milestones**

The timetable of the activity will be linked with the milestones of the GIGs under the intercalibration process (Activity 1). The first overview of the common metrics that will be applied by the GIGs for intercalibration purposes, should be based on the information available via the milestones 3 & 4 reports of the GIGs, and compiled for the WG A meeting in March 2005, and updated with the additional information by the second WG A meeting in October 2005. This information and the updated overview of the national metrics/ classification tools in development, will lead into evaluation of the further harmonization and standardization needs later in 2005 and 2006, and evaluation of the needs for further guidance in monitoring.

v. **Contact person/s**

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vi. Steering Team

Fabrice Martinet (FR), Maria Luisa Serrano (ES), Teresa Rafael (PT), Sebastian Birk (STAR project), NN (coastal and transitional waters expert network), NN (EEA), and Peter Hale (CEN), Guido Premazzi (JRC)

The steering team is open for additional participation, especially to include expertise of the coastal and transitional waters' monitoring and assessment methods.

vii. Type and intensity of work

The steering team is responsible for compiling the information from the Member States and from already established registers/ databases, preparing the draft documents, presenting those for the WG A, and to communicate those with the relevant working groups of CEN. The steering team will identify, if there are needs for specific meetings, and ensure information exchange between WG A ECOSTAT and CEN and vice versa.

Annex 1.2 Working Group B – Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM)

I. Introduction

The Working Group B on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM) is a key group in the context of the WFD Common Implementation Strategy. Throughout Europe, river basin management groups exist and, in particular in the pilot river basins and the international river basins, such groups play a crucial role in, e.g. the preparation of analysis reports under the WFD. It is therefore essential that a working group with the necessary expertise gathers such experience, exchanges information and provides valuable tools and assistance.

Integrated management addresses a wide range of issues and can be achieved in many ways. The understanding also varies between strategists and practitioners, large scale and small scale, administrators and researchers, authorities and NGOs.

With such a complex scope and based on the past experience, it will be a particular challenge to address the right issues, set priorities and involve the people with the right expertise. Key to success will therefore be leadership, clear organisation, targeted and pro-active steering, clarity on deliverables and commitment of all involved to achieve results with an added value for everybody in the CIS process.

II. Objectives and key issues

Considering the above point, the WG B IRBM needs to be revitalised in order to gain in efficiency and address the challenges. Overall, the objectives of the WG B set for the Work Programme 2003/2004 largely remain, in particular:

1. Exchange information and highlight best practices on key issues of IRBM European relevance;
2. Link conceptual approaches with practical experiences, in particular through the pilot river basin exercise;
3. Provide a platform of co-ordination for important related issues, such as the link to funding instruments, the better integration of research results and the other initiatives on IRBM outside the WFD CIS process.

In relation to these objectives, a set of activities will be defined. In particular as regards key issues (**objective 1**), a dynamic priority setting process should be established based on the findings of the Article 5 reports due in March 2005 (**Activity 1**). This first activity will be initiated which should identify a number of key issues emerging from the reports in order to pave the way for the future. This will lead to a list of key issues that will steer both the short term and the long term future work of WG B. Considering the communicated experiences so far a number of key issues are already known, such as “agriculture” and “hydro-morphology”. Another more “horizontal” issue seems to be a tool to define the “cost effective combination of measures” as a key element for the future programme of measures (**Activity 2**). It is clear that this tool is not strictly an economic activity. It also includes technical and “political” aspects as well which should be reflected when the group is set up.

The pilot basin exercise (**Activity 3**) should be linked to the work on the key issues (**objective 2**). In other words, every key issue (or focal area) will have a component of

PRB activity, which contributes to the overall results of the activity. It is clear that not all PRBs will join all activities, it would be rather more efficient to limit the number of PRBs per activity. Furthermore, there should be flexibility in the system that PRBs and others can group together under their own initiative in order to work on some main water management issues, which results are needed for these PRBs in order to succeed in IRBM. Such “own initiative” focal areas should be reported to the WG B and the PRB Technical Secretariat but may not need to be managed by the WG B. Once these “own initiative” focal areas have elaborated results, the WG B should ensure a quality control and discuss on how to best bring them into the CIS exercise.

The activity on water scarcity and droughts will be brought under the umbrella of this WG B (**Activity 4**). This activity is linked closely to the EU Water Initiative. It will be possible and encouraged that experts from other countries outside the EU can participate.

Other important issues are best addressed in the form of a co-ordination platform (**objective 3**). The WG B can establish the right link to relevant research projects, ensure that efficient dissemination of information on funding mechanisms is taking place and contact other initiatives outside the CIS process which deal with IRBM in order to ensure a maximisation of results towards a joint aim. This includes the link to international river basins. The list of key issues meant under objective 1 will also be used as a start for identification of future research and technical support projects. Via an iterative process involving implementers and scientists the list will be translated into concrete research needs.

All the issues that should be addressed in order to reach objectives 1 to 3 are very much interlinked. Individual results obtained in the framework of one objective will often help meet the other two objectives.

The subsequent mandate shall enable the WG B to achieve these objectives.

III. General organisation

Learning from the past, the organisation of the WG B needs to be clearer and more streamlined. An adequate solution seems to divide the WG B into specific activities which elaborate their deliverables in different ways, e.g. through drafting groups, workshops, etc. (as described in the CIS Work Programme 2003/2004). A leader should be designated for every activity.

In order to ensure an adequate coordination between the different activities and the effectiveness of the WG B plenary meetings, a **Preparatory Team** should meet, where necessary, to gather all the activity leaders and prepare the Plenary meetings.

WG B Plenary meetings should be rare (max. two per year) aiming at:

- Presenting the outputs of the activities,
- Ensuring a quality control of the own initiative focal areas developed by PRBs and defining how to best bring them into the CIS exercise, taking into account the results of the control.
- Ensuring the relevance between outputs,
- Providing with a platform of co-ordination and information exchange,
- Coordinating the planning and timing of relevant processes and events (workshops, meetings, deliverables, consultation, etc.),

- Regularly evaluating progress in activities,
- Renewing, when necessary and in accordance with the previous evaluation, the list of key issues to be addressed and make, where appropriate, proposals for to the SCG and WD by drafting a new mandate for new activities,
- Updating or redrafting the mandates for activities, which will be then put forward to the SCG and WD for agreement, taking into account the updated list of key issues, in order to ensure the completion of objectives 1 to 3.

The JRC will continue to be the **Technical Secretariat for the PRBs** as described in the activity sheet 3 but the PRB Steering Group will not be continued. Relevant co-ordination shall be ensured through the WG B, electronic means and annual workshops.

This new structure and organisation respects the Water Directors' requirement of streamlining and simplifying the organisation of the WG B.

IV. Activities

The key activities falling under the objectives described above will be:

1. Link to Research and issues emerging from Article 5 reports (strongly linked to objective 1 and 3)
2. Assessment of cost-effectiveness (strongly linked to objective 1)
3. Pilot River Basin exercise (strongly linked to objective 2)
4. Water Scarcity (strongly linked to objective 1)

Each present key activity does not aim at covering all the issues to be addressed. Consequently, this first list will need to be updated and complemented in the future, in order to fully complete objectives 1 to 3. When and where appropriate, WG B will make proposals for new activities to the SCG and the WD for their agreement.

The details for each activity are defined in a separate activity sheet. The pilot river basin activity is a horizontal activity which contributes in a decentralised and integrated way to all the activities under this WG as well as any other Working Group under the WFD CIS Work Programme. Each individual activity should thereby describe a specific PRB component of their work.

V. Tasks and expected outcomes

The expected outcome defined individually for the different activities.

VI. Timetable and milestones

The timetable and milestones will be set for the different activities. Overall, most activities will be carried out in the period 2005 and 2006. However, at the end of 2005 a review of the priorities should be carried out which may identify new activities and reduce the input into ongoing ones.

VII. Lead and Preparatory Group

France and Spain will co-lead this WG B and lead some of the activities. The Joint Research Centre has offered to continue its role as a Technical Secretariat and contact point for the Pilot River Basin exercise [cf. activity sheet 3 for details]. Commission (DG Environment) will co-chair the WG B and the Preparatory Group meetings. In addition, the Netherlands take a leading role in one of the above-mentioned activities. Together, these leading partners will form the Preparatory Group.

VIII. Contact/lead person/s

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Joachim D'Eugenio	EC, DG ENV D.2	joachim.d'eugenio@cec.eu.int

IX. Participants

The participation in the Working Group will continue with the experts nominated previously for WG 2B, unless different or new experts are notified by the SCG member to the WG leaders and the Commission. The WG members will be invited to join Drafting Teams or propose to make nominations of experts from outside the WG members, as and when appropriate. The selection of new PRBs is described in the activity sheet 3. In principle, the PRB leaders could be invited to the WG B Plenaries, however, it is up to the Preparatory Group to decide on a case-by-case basis depending on the items on the agenda and the organisational arrangements/constraints. Similarly, experts from key EU research projects can be invited if and when the Preparatory Group considers this to be useful.

X. Working process

There should be a maximum of two Plenary meetings of Working Group B per year, in line with the annual planning of the SCG and WD meetings. The Plenary meetings should address the co-ordination of the various activities but also spare some time to discuss some technical aspects in more detail.

XI. Link to other activities

This Working Group is, by definition, closely linked to all other activities in the context of WFD Common Implementation Strategy. The Preparatory Group shall monitor the progress in the other groups and activities and establish, where appropriate, operational links to the other activities in order to define areas of co-operation.

WG B – Integrated River Basin management

Activity sheet 1 - Information exchange and research needs on key issues of IRBM

i. Introduction

The activities leading to the WFD Article 5 reports are the basis to elaborate which gaps and key issues have to be solved in order to meet the intermediate objectives and the final goal of good status of the WFD, and hence to steer the monitoring activities and design of future programmes of measures. WG B will prepare a list of all issues identified as a result of the “WFD Article 5 activity”. These might be issues actually occurring in the River Basins, but also foreseen issues in the forthcoming steps of the WFD, e.g. gaps in monitoring methodologies. For each issue identified, a process will be followed to define those activities that may merit from a EU-wide approach²³. This approach is reflected in figure 1.

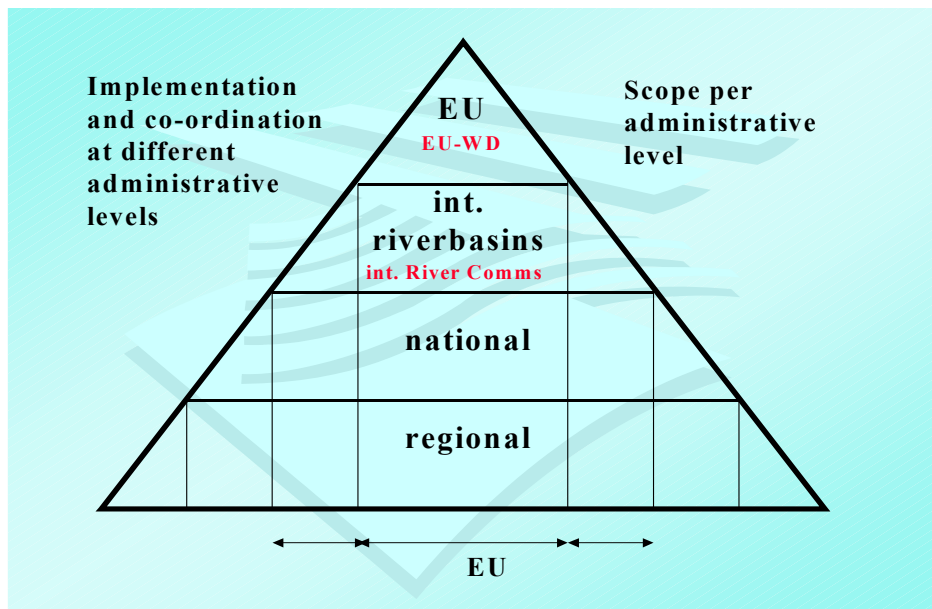


Figure 1: “Pyramid approach”

The key idea behind the “pyramid approach” is to “be as specific as the level needs or as general as the level can be”. This means that going from EU level policies to practical implementation at low level, each level adds specific aspects, inherent to the circumstances concerned (thus local, regional, national or international river basin district aspects). Also, the other way around, going up from local issues to EU solutions, the specific aspects must be abstracted. In this way, it becomes clear that certain issues can be dealt with optimally at EU level, while for others the local level fits best. It is clear that in practice, a strict top down approach cannot be followed. In practice the “pyramid approach” will follow a more iterative process (top down and bottom-up).

Focus of WG B will be those issues that merit from a EU wide approach. These might be issues that occur at EU wide level, but also issues only occurring at local level at such a scale through the Union, that they would merit from a common approach. Preparation of the list of all identified

²³ This may lead to various EU wide “reference” products, such as information papers, information exchange activities (workshops including qualified proceedings) etc.

problems and the selection of those meriting a EU wide approach will be accomplished via a “light process” (see below). Some of the issues might be addressed later on by WG B (or other CIS WGs) directly.

This process will serve as well to develop an overview of issues for which water managers seek support from research. This overview can then be used as basis for firstly building links to already available research results (tools, models; either directly applicable or applicable after some adaptation) and secondly identifying knowledge gaps where further research is needed. During the last years, several efforts have been made to strengthen the cooperation between researchers and those responsible for implementing the WFD. For example, under the Common Implementation Strategy, the WG B “Integrated river basin management” invited representatives of the research community to plenary meetings and a session of the last one (Madrid, April 2004) was entirely devoted to present research activities and to discuss the most appropriate way forward. In May 2004 a scope paper on the issue was presented to the Strategic Coordination Group. It was generally agreed that an effective process to ensure the adequate two ways communication between implementers and researchers is needed. The development of a list of priorities on research will be beneficial to both. The researchers will obtain a better insight into the problems experienced by WFD implementers, increasing the chances that the output of their work is relevant; WFD implementers will get the opportunity of explaining their needs and then participating in the development of solutions.

ii. Objectives

The objective of this activity is to identify and prioritise issues and research needs deriving from the WFD Article 5 activity, that need a EU-wide approach. In order to reach the objective, the following tasks are executed:

The first task is to prepare a first draft list of issues and gaps identified during the WFD Article 5 activity in a ‘light process’, before the actual Article 5 reports are finalised.

Secondly, this first draft list is checked for EU level relevance and prioritised, once the Article 5 reports have been published (resulting in a final draft list of issues). Right after this check, the research needs deriving from the problems issues are made more explicit (taking into account input from the research society²⁴, and resulting in a draft list of research topics).

Finally, the objective is to have both lists endorsed by the WD via the SCG.

In practice, this means that during the process three lists will be provided; a first list containing all issues raised by the Member States, a second – elaborated – list containing issues relevant at EU level, and a third list identifying the research needs deriving from the EU relevant issues. See also Figure 2.

iii. PRB Component

The role of PRB is twofold. Firstly, interested PRB may pick up a subject identified as a key issue although a EU wide reference has not been developed yet. Via this way the PRB concerned can give input to the later process of preparing an EU wide reference. Secondly, the list may result in EU wide references that can be tested by PRB expressing their specific interest. The resulting input may lead to follow up activities (amending the reference, additional references etc). More specifically, in this phase it is expected that PRB contribute on

- Defining ways to improve the processes for validation of tools and methodologies.
- Providing information on restrictions in the use of research results as lack of available data, trained staff, etc.

²⁴ The research society is asked to deliver a list of relevant research projects (both running and finalised)

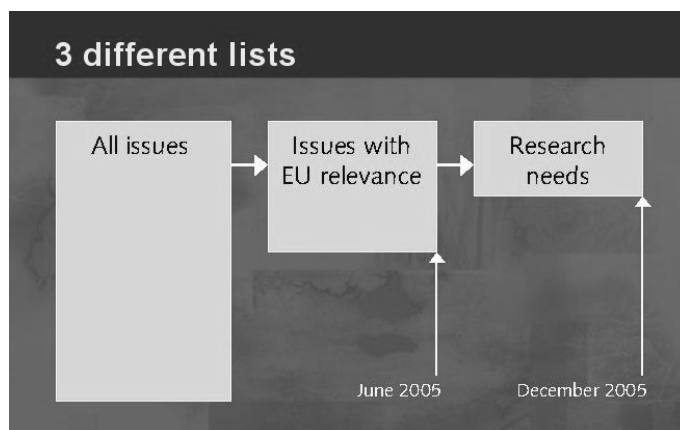


Figure 2: Process of elaboration of the key issue list

iv. Organisation

Lead countries (Netherlands, Spain) will prepare a short questionnaire comprising 3 key questions: 1) which issues have been identified, 2) what should be dealt with at EU level, and 3) is it possible to give a first indication of research needs. This questionnaire will be circulated to: the heads of delegation of the SCG with the request to see that the right contact person²⁵ is nominated to give the requested information and to act as a contact. These contact persons will also be contacted by phone and/or e-mail. The results of these actions will be synthesised using the WG B preparatory team as a sounding board (of course, other M.S. may join). Via the preparatory team, the liaison function with DG RTD and DG ENV will be guaranteed.

The synthesis will act as a provisional draft list of key issues (List 1; "All issues") that will be the input for a two days workshop (tentatively April 4 & 5, 2005²⁶) with representatives from all Member States. During the workshop, Member States can agree upon the provisional draft list, and a so-called 'pyramid check' can be performed, resulting in List 2; "Issues with EU relevance". Considering the broad span of control of this activity, colleagues from WGA, WGC, WGD and EAF shall be invited.

The list with "Issues with EU relevance" (List 2) will then be discussed during a workshop with the research community, in order to define a first tentative translation into research topics. This workshop is expected on 6 & 7 April 2005 (tentatively). At this date, a close link can be made with the yearly HarmoniCA conference, where the research community is discussion on the links with policies.

Besides of the input from the WFD-Article 5 activity, input is expected from the research community on research topics.

The result of the two workshops – the first workshop with Members States and the second with the research community – will be discussed during a WG B meeting, in order to identify the way forward and the consequences for the work of WG B.

The list of identified key issues (List 2) will be presented for discussion and approval to SCG and EU-WD in June 2005.

During the second half of 2005, the research topics will be further elaborated in discussion with the research community, leading to a list with research needs that will be discussed and approved by SCG and EU-WD in December 2005.

The research topics will be accompanied by an advice to the EU-WD on how to proceed.

²⁵ The person at national level, responsible for or involved in preparing the art. 5 report.

²⁶ These dates are co-ordinated with the date of the HarmoniCA conference in 2005, where the research community is meeting.

v. Expected outcomes

The expected overall outcome is a list of identified WFD issues (assisting products are a targeted questionnaire, a list of contact persons, a list of “answers per MS”) and a second list of research needs (assisting product is a list of already performed research, delivered by the research community). For each identified issue the “pyramid approach” will be followed resulting in key issues where the development of an EU wide reference may have added value.

Some identified issues may include certain “sub issues” that may have added value to result in an EU wide reference. It may also include certain “cross cutting issues” to be dealt with at EU wide level. Considering the experiences today, the list will contain “agriculture” and “hydro-morphology” as key issues that may merit from the development of EU wide references. The development of EU-wide references regarding “cost effectiveness” is also considered a priority problem (resolving) issue. The pre-selection of these 3 issues have the advantage that we do not have to wait until the art 5 reports have been submitted. The list can act as compass for the future activities of WG B.

v. Detailed timetable and milestones

Time	2005											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Actions/tasks												
List of identified issues												
Collection of provisional topics from all MS												
Workshop*				✓								
Presentation to SCG					✓							
Presentation to WD						✓						
Research linkages												
Workshop*				✓								
Discussion between WFD implementers and research community												
Presentation to WG B										✓		
Presentation to SCG											✓	
Presentation to WD												✓
Plenary meeting of WG B				✓								
<u>Deliverables:</u>												
List of key issues			P			D1						
List of WFD Research needs										P		D2
Advice how to proceed after 2005										P		D3

Notes:

P Provisional

D Final Deliverables

* Workshop planned to take place on 4 and 5 April back to back with the research linkages workshop on 6 and 7 of April 2005.

vii. Contact person/s

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viii. Participants

Small preparatory team (tentatively 8-10 persons; e.g. NL, SP, FR, UK and DE and representatives of the Commission (DG ENV.D2 and DG RTD)).

ix. Type and intensity of work

A process will be followed using a questionnaire and contacts by phone and e-mail with an integrating workshop at the end. Possibly 1 or 2 meetings of the preparatory team. No massive discussion rounds are foreseen.

The list of research topics will be discussed using different tools (e-mail discussion, visit workshops, etc.). It is not foreseen to organise workshops (other than the workshops in the beginning of April).

WG B – Integrated River Basin Management Activity sheet 2 - Cost effectiveness of measures

i. Introduction

The requirements for an economic analysis are present in different articles and annexes of the WFD mainly in:

Article 5: initial characterisation

Article 9: cost recovery and water pricing

Article 11: programme of measures

Annex III: defining the economic analysis

The aim of the cost-effectiveness analysis is to allow member states and candidate countries to:

- Make judgements about the most cost effective **combination of measures** which could be implemented in order to bridge a potential gap in water status between the baseline scenario and the Directive's objectives (Annex III); and
- Assess the cost-effectiveness of **alternative set of measures** in order to estimate whether those programme of measures are disproportionately costly or expensive (Article 4) (see also Disproportionate Costs).

This activity will focus on cost-effectiveness analysis. The drafting team will also have to clarify the links between cost effectiveness and the disproportionate costs, which partly take part to the mechanism of justification of potential exemptions.

ii. Objectives

The main aim of the drafting team on cost effectiveness analysis is to develop practical documents with examples on cost effectiveness procedures, which should enable member states and candidate countries to assess the efficiency and the economic impact of proposed measures and associated programmes of measures. These documents will be important:

- To enable public participation in accordance with article 14 requirements
- To assess the efficiency of programmes of measures and associated RBMP in the light of article 11 in a transparent manner
- To allow a transparent and rigorous economic assessment at places where derogations will be required

The work of the drafting team will start immediately after endorsement of the activity by the water Directors by the following tasks:

- A first work will be dedicated to find a common understanding of cost effectiveness concept (based on the work already realized in WATECO guidance), and identification of the need for CEA (Where (scale)? When?) in the WFD implementation process (POM, RBMP), a distinction between basic and supplementary measures.
- The members of the group, in order to try to provide useful outputs at river basin scale, will have to select around 4 key questions and try give pragmatic answers and basic principles (as a common basis) by using case studies and examples. These key questions will be preselected by the drafting team during the first meeting in early 2005. They will be proposed to the validation of W B, SCG, WD by the first half of 2005 in order to start working on each IS by the second semester of 2005.

iii. PRB Component

On a voluntary basis PRB are invited to try to contribute to the work of one or another of the key questions identified at their regional level and to exchange with the experts of the group. The leader of the group will be in charge to make the link with the PRB leader.

iv. Organisation

The organisation will be specified during the kick-off meeting of the drafting team allowing the new members of the CEA team to be aware of all the subjects that could be covered by the activity and express their interest in some specific key issues.

v. Expected outcomes

First the drafting team will prepare a common understanding document by mid-2005. The drafting team will meet at the beginning of 2005 in order to have a first selection of 4 to 6 key questions which will be presented to the WG, SCG and WD. For each of the key questions selected, an Information sheet (IS) will be developed in the second half of 2005. Each IS will deal with:

- definition of the concept
- appropriate methodologies to treat the problem
- usefulness of the answer in the WFD implementation
- examples or case studies to answer

vi. Detailed timetable and milestones

To be defined in more details after the kick-off meeting of the steering group when the questions will be selected.

Time	2005				2006			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Actions								
Kick off meeting	✓							
For each key issue selected:								
Information exchange		✓	✓					
IS drafting			✓	✓				
IS validation					✓			
Workshop of presentation of the IS developed and selection of new subjects						✓		
Information exchange on new subjects							✓	✓
IS endorsement								✓

vii. Contact person/s

The drafting team will be lead by France. Their main responsibilities will be organized the work inside the group and to produce the documents mentioned above.

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Thierry Davy	France	thierry.davy@tiscali.be
Stéphanie Croguennec	French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development	stephanie.croguennec@ecologie.gouv.fr

viii. Participants

The drafting team leaders will be assisted by a number of participants no more than 20 persons. Participation in the group is, in principle, open to all other members of the SCG. Previous work on CEA has been done solely by economists, but we now do need bring the work into the main stream of WFD policy, and to have input from a mixture of people with good economic, technical/scientific, practical and policy skills. The diversity of the issues covered by the subject of cost-effectiveness requires such a multidisciplinary group. An adequate selection process will be in place in order to ensure the multidisciplinary of the group. About one third of representative of each following category is expected: **policy makers, engineers, economists**

In a first round candidates who are interested can contact the leaders mentioned above and to indicate to which category they are members of. If each of the three category is well represented the DG leaders will send the list with the “category” of each candidate to WGB for validation. If each category is not well represented the DG leaders will ask for a second round proposing to exchange the peoples of the more represented category. Then with a second proposal of MS and NGO they will submit a final list to validation of the WGB. In any case all the participants are supposed to take an active part to the drafting of the IS.

ix. Type and intensity of work

The drafting team will meet around twice a year and the main part of the work will be done by email. The work will be shared between the members of the group. Group of 2 to 3 persons will be in charge of drafting an information sheet (IS) on each selected key question. Each draft IS will circulate around the all group for remarks. After that the leader will be in charge to compile them in one document and to present the results to the WGB.

WG B – Integrated River Basin Management
Activity sheet No. 3 –
Integrated testing in Pilot River Basins (PRB) – Phase II (2005-2006)

i. Introduction

The first phase of the pilot river basin (PRB) exercise is finishing at the end of 2004. The main objective of this first phase has been to test and report on coherence amongst the different guidance documents in the selected pilot river basins leading to the long-term development of River Basin Management Plans and preparation of programmes of measures. This phase has produced some recommendations on issues that might be considered in the continuation of the exercise.

After the finalisation of the first phase by the end of 2004, integrated testing in PRBs will become more flexible, closer linked to all activities under the Common Implementation Strategy and allow for creation of networks and initiatives with other partners.

In addition, the network of pilot river basins shall be reviewed (in order to renew the commitment of the 15 existing PRBs) and extended if there is interest from other river basins to join the activity.

With the arrangements in the second phase, PRB testing will become an integral part of activities under the CIS work programme 2005/2006 rather than a separate activity. Within each Working Group (WG), PRBs are functional to reach the goals of the WG (see specifications in each mandate of WGs). At the same time, it is essential to ensure a horizontal information exchange among PRBs involved in different WGs.

ii. Objectives and key areas

The objectives of the second phase of the PRB exercise are:

- a) to present examples and ideas for key elements of the WFD implementation ahead of the deadlines required by the Directive, in particular a monitoring network (end 2005) and a pilot river basin management plan (end 2006);*
- b) to provide concrete input and case studies regarding all activities under the Common Implementation Strategy and to address questions on so-called “key areas” identified by the respective Working/Activity Groups;*
- c) to create networks and activity with other interested partners on subjects not (yet) identified as key areas under the Common Implementation Strategy. This aspect should be embedded in the Research activity of WG B on Integrated River Basin Management (IRBM).*

The key areas are all the activities agreed in the CIS Work Programme 2005/2006 including subjects dealt with by the four Working Groups, the EAF Priority Substances and the Agriculture Strategic Steering Group, in particular, the activities of WG B - IRBM (e.g. cost-effectiveness, link to research, water scarcity).

PRBs are not expected to address all three objectives or to follow all activities but rather to select amongst them on the basis of their interest and resource availability.

iii. Organisation

The PRB activity is anchored into the structure of WG B and will report its progress through this group. The organisation regarding input of selected PRBs into other WGs or activities will be decided on a case-by-case basis, preferably without establishing a new structure. It is recommended to invite the selected PRBs to meetings of a certain WG or activity to ensure co-ordination. The PRB Steering Group will be disbanded. Instead, once a year, a wider PRB Workshop is organised where results can be presented and necessary arrangements are being

agreed. The Joint Research Center (JRC) will act as the Technical Secretariat of PRB exercise, with the following tasks:

1. At the end of 2006, the JRC will provide a summary report on the main outcome of the PRB exercise in 2005 and 2006 by compiling the information provided through the WGs;
2. The JRC will update the Platform for Information Exchange (PIE) based on the input provided by WGs;
3. The JRC will organise the annual PRB Workshop.

The PRBs shall produce the necessary input as required by the various WGs or activities and as agreed within the respective activities directly with the other PRBs concerned. In addition, the PRBs are requested to produce progress reports on the activity in English and written input to the final Outcome Report prepared by the Technical Secretariat. WG leaders shall collect PRBs' progress reports and transmit them to the Secretariat. The progress reports will be used as a basis to present interim results to IRBM WG and the Strategic Co-ordination Group. In summary, this means that the actual WG/activity leader together with the PRB leaders shall be responsible for the setting of tasks, timetables and deliverables. In addition, the progress report shall be sent to the Technical Secretariat and this will be integrated in the overall progress reports of WG B. If issues for discussion on the organisation, the information exchange and reporting arise, WG B will be invited to discuss these on their meeting and make necessary proposals to SCG and Water Directors.

Moreover, PRBs are encouraged to create networks and activities, in particular with ongoing RTD, LIFE and other projects, which are not (yet) directly covered by activities of the Common Implementation Strategy. The organisation is flexible and left to the PRBs and other partners involved. These activities should be embedded in the Research activity under WG B. One element is to discuss the improvement of the dissemination of information and results from the PRBs. The information exchange platform currently developed under the HarmoniCA project shall be closely linked to the PRB PIE and the WFD CIRCA. DG ENV and JRC will develop an appropriate and integrated dissemination concept in the first half of 2005.

Additionally, the PRBs are requested to keep the Research WG leaders regularly informed about such activities/networks through the progress reports. It should be emphasised that it is up to the Strategic Coordination Group to decide, on the basis of the progress reports, whether such activities/networks are part of the CIS process and whether the products of such work should be endorsed by the Water Directors as outcome of the CIS process.

Finally, the PRBs are encouraged to produce reports or other outputs, including an example for a pilot river basin management plan, as convenient for them within their own work plan and within the resource availability.

iv. Expected outcomes

The above-mentioned variety of activities on integrated testing shall produce the following deliverables (note: it is indicated in brackets whether all or selected PRBs are addressed):

1. Progress reports every 4 - 6 months by each PRB to respective WGs,
2. WG leaders summaries based on the individual progress report
3. Reports and outputs in support of WGs or activities (selected PRBs - as appropriate)
4. Reports on (elements of) Pilot River Basin management plans by the end of 2006 (selected PRBs)
5. An Outcome Report summarising all activities, experiences, findings of Phase II to be produced by the Technical Secretariat on the basis of the input provided by all WGs leaders and PRBs
6. Update of the PIE based on the documents delivered to the JRC

v. Detailed timetable and milestones

Time	2005				2006			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Information Exchange	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PRB Workshop			✓				✓	
Draft pilot river basin management plan					✓	✓	✓	✓
Final outcome report							✓	✓

vi. Contact person/s – Technical Secretariat

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Giovanni Bidoglio	JRC	giovanni.bidoglio@jrc.it
Lorenzo Galbiati	JRC	lorenzo.galbiati@jrc.it
Francesca Somma	JRC	francesca.somma@jrc.it

vii. Participants

The current 15 PRBs will be invited to express their interest and commitment to continue the PRB exercise in 2005/2006. In addition, once a year, an open call for new PRBs will be addressed to the Member States – Water Directors (first call in January 2005). New PRBs will be admitted further to the fulfilment of the criteria established for the PRB in 2001 and, in addition, confirming the following conditions:

- acceptance of the rules of procedure established in the terms of reference document defining the pilot river basin exercise.
- commit to take part of the exercise, developing work on preparation of pilot river basin management plans as established within the WFD or actively contributing to any activity under the CIS.
- accept to provide agreed deliveries on time and in English (working language)
- accept participation the annual PRB workshops
- accept preparation of progress reports and input in the final report when agreed on the required format

Subject to the selection of the new PRBs, to be agreed by the SCG, the PRBs are offered to use the official WFD logo of the CIS process in order to distinguish them from other ongoing projects on river basin scale.

In the application request, existing and new PRBs will be invited to identify which activity they would like to contribute and which deliverables they would expect in 2005 and 2006.

viii. Type and intensity of work

The type and intensity of the work will be dependent on the input in the specific activities and the initiative and willingness of the individual PRB. The focal point of activities will be the annual workshop and the regular progress reports in preparation of the SCG and Water Director meetings. Most communication and information exchange will be done through electronic means (email etc).

The former PRB Steering Group will be discontinued and any necessary coordination between all existing and new PRBs will be done in the context of the annual workshops. However, it may be useful to hold an information meeting with all PRB leaders and all WG leaders in spring 2005, once the new PRBs have been selected in order to inform, discuss and agree the new way of working set out by this mandate.

The IRBM WG will inform and report to the SCG and the WDs. The Secretariat and the IRBM WG will organise the annual PRB Workshops. In addition, a regular update on relevant events will be prepared and circulated to the PRBs by WGs leader and uploaded on PIE by the Technical Secretariat

WG B – Integrated River Basin Management

Activity sheet 4 - water scarcity

i. Introduction

In November 2003 during their meeting in Roma the water directors recognised the necessity of tackling the issue of the water scarcity at the light of drought events that had occurred that year all over Europe. The scope of the Water Framework Directive adopted in 2000 (see article 1) incorporates issues of water scarcity by stating that the Directive :

- *“promotes sustainable water use based on a long term protection of available water resources*
- *contributes to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts*
- *contributes to provision of the sufficient supply of good quality surface water and groundwater as needed for sustainable balanced and equitable water use”*

Water scarcity can be understood as either water deficiency resulting from the demand being bigger than the supply or resulting from droughts or a combination of these two phenomena.

Nevertheless quantitative issues, with the exception of the groundwater quantitative status, are probably less developed than quality issues in the following technical articles of the WFD. This is why as already done before for floods, it has appeared necessary to investigate the water scarcity issue.

This concern of the Water Directors has led to the creation of an ad-hoc team on scarcity, led by France. This team has met twice in 2004 and has resulted in a collaborative workshop with the research community, held in Palermo on October 8 and 9 of 2004. During the meetings the team has identified that the scarcity issue should be treated through two phenomena leading to different actions and effects:

- i. drought events management*
- ii. water scarcity resulting from supply-demand imbalances*
- iii. The effects of climate change on scarcity issues will also be tackled within this group*

The working group has also identified that the link with research activities should be strong in order to provide definitions, assessments, and pilot studies. According to all the developments and research presented in Palermo by research team. It seems necessary to propose to integrate some representatives of the “ARID cluster” into the drafting group of the CIS.

The EUWI, and particularly its Mediterranean component, has also tackled the scarcity issues during a recent workshop in Brindisi (September 2004) on the WFD/EUWI Joint Process. They invited representatives of non EU countries, Mediterranean stakeholders and water experts, who have already a great experience of scarcity issues. In order to merge the efforts and share experiences it is proposed to associate two representatives of the Mediterranean workshop to the drafting team of the CIS (already including other non EU countries). To start the collaboration, Tunisia and Egypt, as non-EU governmental members, could be the ones who represent the Med working group in the CIS drafting team.

In order to merge all the efforts on the scarcity topic, the scarcity drafting team is expected to establish strong links with the drafting on “groundwater chemical and quantitative status” and also with specific Mediterranean Groundwater issues inside of WG C (activity sheets 4 and 6).

ii. Objectives

The main objective of the drafting team is to provide and share information, and possible actions in order to react on scarcity issues. The drafting team will have to stress the links and potential gaps of water scarcity issues and WFD. The final output will be a report addressing different types of definitions, issues, and related actions. In order to share the first outputs and experiences of the drafting team Cyprus and the ARID cluster have proposed organise a workshop in May 2005, in Cyprus.

The main document to be produced is proposed to be divided in different chapter according to the proposal of the group and the conclusions of the Palermo workshop.

The document will mainly integrate the tentative following chapters:

Introduction : WFD and scarcity: concerns and gaps

- *in which articles do quantitative issues need to be addressed?*
- *what are the proposed actions?*
- *are there some gaps?*
- *links with article 17 and groundwater daughter directive?*

Chapter I : Definitions and assessment of the different phenomena

- *drought event management*
- *long term imbalances in supply and demand*

Chapter II: Drought planning and management

- *type of measures (demand/supply)*
- *organisation (awareness, ...) and planning*
- *efficiency of proposed measures*
- *common principles*

Chapter III: long term imbalances in supply and demand

- *type of measures (demand/supply)*
- *efficiency of proposed measures*
- *common principles*

Conclusion: Lessons to learn

All the chapters will be dedicated to give a better understanding of scarcity issues. In each chapter experiences examples coming from the research sphere and the Mediterranean countries and other non EU countries be integrated.

iii. PRB Component

On a voluntary basis PRB are invited to try to treat some of the key issues identified at their regional level and to exchange experiences with the experts of the group. The leader of the drafting team on scarcity will be in charge to make the link with the PRB leader.

iv. Organisation

The drafting team is expected to work on the two subjects (and long term). A team of three to five persons will be in charge of drafting the three chapters and of the introduction identified above. The work can be divided inside of each chapter. Once a chapter or a sub chapter will be drafted will circulate around the drafting group for remarks. When the chapters will be validated they will be compiled in the document.

v. Expected outcomes

At the kick off meeting of the drafting team a tentative table of contents will be presented and agreed for the proposed chapters and sub chapters of a best practices document on water scarcity and drought management. The best practices document will be finalised by mid-2006.

vi. Detailed timetable and milestones

To be refined after the first meeting of the drafting team (tentatively)

Time	2005				2006			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Introduction								
Drafting chapters								
Workshops					✓			
<u>Deliverables:</u>								
Draft final best practices document					✓			

vii. Contact person/s

The drafting team on scarcity is proposed to be led by France and Italy. The main responsibilities of the leader will be to organize the work inside the group and to produce the documents mentioned above.

Name	Organisation	E-mail
Claire Grisez	French ministry	claire.grisez@ecologie.gouv.fr
Gregory Boinel	French ministry	gregory.boinel@ecologie.gouv.fr
Thierry Davy	French water agencies	thierry.davy@tiscali.be
Giorgio Pineschi	Italian ministry	pineschi.giorgio@minambiente.it

viii. Participants

The drafting team leader will be assisted by a number of participants. Participation in the group is, in principle, open to all other members of the SCG, plus about three member of the research sphere, and about three non-EU countries of the Med EUWI. However, in view of the specified tasks, the group is particularly interested in people from two different horizons: specialist of the definition and the assessment of the phenomena and practitioners in charge of the implementation and the evaluation of the measures. It is important to emphasize that the main aim is to produce a practical document.

In order to enhance an efficient and optimal operation of the group, it is proposed to include no more between 15 to 20 persons in the drafting group. Candidates who are interested can contact the leader of the drafting group mentioned above. All the participants are supposed to take an active part to the drafting of the different chapters. Contributions from the Mediterranean part will be prepared by the Med Working group and presented to the CIS drafting group via appointed representatives (Tunisia and Egypt).

ix *Type and intensity of work*

The group will meet around two to three times a year and the main part of the work will be done by email. The work will be shared between the members of the group. Group of 2 to three persons will be in charge of drafting the different sub chapters of the document on each selected key issue. Each draft subchapter; will circulate around the whole group for remarks. After that the leader will be in charge to compile them in one document and to present the results to the CIS boards (SCG, Water directors). Where, appropriate, the Mediterranean Working group will meet back-to-back the CIS drafting group to produce specific inputs to the general document.

Annex 1.3 Working Group C – Groundwater

I Introduction

The main orientations of the 2005-2006 mandate of the WG C have been discussed at the WG C workshop of 25 June 2004, and a draft has been prepared in September for final presentation at the WG C workshop of 18 October 2004. This final version takes account of the on-going developments of the GWD negotiation process.

II Objectives

The Groundwater Working Group (C) is part of the Common Implementation Strategy of the WFD. It aims both to clarify groundwater issues that are covered by the WFD and prepare the development of technical guidance documents in the light of the orientations given by the future Groundwater Directive upon its adoption.

The Commission proposal of Groundwater Directive COM(2003)550 has been adopted on 19th September 2003. Delays in the debates at the European Parliament have not permitted a first reading to be voted under the previous EP Environment Commission. The situation is now that a voting is expected in February/March 2005, which means that the directive will likely not be adopted before the end of 2005. In this respect, and without prejudging the outcome of the negotiation process, it is planned to prepare the ground for the development of technical guidance documents, **primarily focusing on the issues covered by the WFD in 2005**, which will be complemented by specific guidance linked to the new provisions in the adopted groundwater directive in 2006. **In other words, focus in 2005 will be made on existing WFD provisions – this WG C mandate will be revised at the end of 2005 in the light of the results of the daughter directive's negotiation outcome.** The objectives of the WG C in 2005-2006 are, therefore, separated into two main aims:

1. During 2005, WG C activities will focus on drafting activities related to WFD provisions which require further technical guidance, in particular monitoring (prepared by the proposed new Chemical Monitoring Expert Network), groundwater and protected areas and direct/indirect discharges. In addition, a specific activity will concern exchange of views on groundwater management in the Mediterranean area (linked to the EU Water Initiative). The work will be carried out in the form of workshops aiming to define the core content of the future guidance, which will be followed by drafting of pieces of text in the framework of *ad hoc* drafting groups and e-mail exchanges.
2. As soon as the directive will be adopted, the work of the WG C (2006) will be orientated on the finalisation of the pieces of guidance developed under (1) and on additional elements arising from the adopted proposal, e.g. further specifications linked to trend assessment and compliance testing.

Activities of the WG have to be conceived with the view of collecting targeted data and information, avoiding duplication with existing guidance documents and ensuring an efficient use of available data and information.

III Key activities

In the context of the above timeframe, the activities in 2005-2006 will consist in workshops to share information/experience and on drafting activities according to the following timeframe:

1. Plenary WG C meeting on **28th January 2005**, aiming to agree on the drafting teams, table of contents on the different parts of the groundwater technical guidance, *modus operandi* of the groups etc. Following this plenary meeting, the work of the different drafting teams will start in parallel, under the leadership of nominated representatives.
2. Monitoring specifications: discussion planned under the 'Chemical Monitoring drafting group', i.e. involving surface water experts – technical meeting proposed on **9th March 2005** with participants of the WG C monitoring drafting team, later dates to be defined (Activity sheet 1) – **The WG C monitoring activity will actually correspond to the groundwater part of the 'Chemical Monitoring drafting team', thus avoiding any duplication of efforts;**
3. Specifications on groundwater and protected areas – technical meeting of the drafting team on 6th June 2005 (Activity sheet 2), followed by a plenary WG C workshop on **7th June 2005** in which progress of the four drafting teams will be presented;
4. Guidance on direct/indirect discharges to groundwater – technical meeting of the drafting team on 11th October 2005 (Activity sheet 3), followed by a plenary WG C workshop on **12th October 2005** in which progress of the four drafting teams will be presented;
5. Technical specifications on trend identification and reversal, and quantitative and compliance testing – technical meeting of the drafting team (Activity sheet 4), followed by a plenary WG C workshop (to be scheduled in January 2006) in which progress of the four drafting teams will be presented;
6. Groundwater Conference – State of progress of WFD implementation (June 2006) – Activity sheet 5.

A related activity will take place to exchange expertise and best practices on groundwater management in the Mediterranean area (Activity sheet 6). In addition, close links will be established with the Water Scarcity expert group (under WG B).

WG C drafting groups corresponding to the above topics 1-4 will be formed before the end of 2004. The aim is to develop draft guidance texts (discussed in the framework of the above mentioned meetings), which will be complemented after the adoption of the groundwater directive, and compiled in one single Groundwater guidance document to be published before the end of 2006.

IV Lead countries/body

The Commission / DG ENV will chair the WG C which will be co-chaired by Austria. The JRC-IES will be involved as steering participant in the WG.

Name	Organisation/Member State	E-mail
Philippe Quevauviller	European Commission	Philippe.quevauviller@cec.eu.int
Johannes Grath	Umweltbundesamt, AT	Johannes.Grath@umweltbundesamt.at

V Participants

The Working Group is composed of representatives of EU Member States, Associated and Candidate countries, industrial and scientific stakeholders, and NGO representatives. Workshops will be opened to all participants. Drafting teams will be formed by a maximum of 10-15 participants; they will meet the day before each workshop (respectively 9 March, 6 June and 11 October in 2005 – Date to be defined later for 2006).

VI PRB components

Pilot river basins are invited to provide case studies for any of the subjects identified in the various activities under WG C.

VII Links with other activities

Close links will be established with the WG B, in particular the new Research expert group, the Chemical Monitoring drafting group (covering the Activity 1 of the present WG), and the Water Scarcity expert group as well as with on-going RTD projects funded by the DG Research. The monitoring activity (Activity sheet 1) will be fully embedded in the 'Chemical Monitoring drafting group' (but not solely focusing on chemical issues since quantitative status monitoring should also be considered). In addition, links with the Thematic Strategy on Soil Protection are envisaged.

VII Type and intensity of work

The Groundwater WG will be formed of a **Plenary Forum** including all participants and **Drafting teams** of selected participants, which will meet in the frame of workshops or *ad hoc* meetings for sharing experiences and discussing technical specifications to be considered as important elements for the future guidance document on groundwater.

Specific activities to be carried out by the Plenary Forum are:

- Discussion of terms of reference and work programme of the WG;
- Participation in workshops and discussion of elements to be considered for the drafting of pieces of guidance documents, and approval of final drafts;
- Decision on open issues to be presented to the Strategic Co-ordination Group.

For specific purposes, **other experts** may be involved and be used as a reservoir of expertise for discussing specific issues, e.g. research integration, standardisation, quality assurance etc. The selection of experts will be decided in consultation with the WG chair.

WG C – Groundwater

Activity sheet 1 – Monitoring specifications (2005)

'Groundwater Monitoring Drafting team – GW1'

i. Objectives

To discuss core elements on groundwater monitoring already embedded in the WFD, which should be considered as technical specifications as part of a groundwater guidance document. This part of the guidance drafting work will be complemented, as appropriate, with new elements arising from the adopted groundwater directive. **This activity will constitute one of the elements of the new 'Chemical Monitoring drafting team' concerning the chemical status aspects;** parallel drafting will however focus on quantitative status monitoring.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in plenary WG C workshops and ad hoc technical meetings, and drafting of technical monitoring specifications which will be part of a larger guidance document to be finalised after the adoption of the Groundwater Directive. The work will build on the WG 2.7 monitoring guidance and the technical report on groundwater monitoring issued from the WG C workshop of 25 June 2004.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

A provisional date for a technical meeting of the drafting team is proposed on 9th March 2005. Other ad hoc meetings may be organised at the initiative of the GW1 Activity Leader. Presentations of the progress of the activity will be made at the occasion of each WG C plenary workshops at the following provisional dates: 7th June, 11th October and January 2006 in Brussels. The drafting of the technical specifications should be completed by the end of December 2005.

iv. Contact person/s

Philippe Quevauviller or Johannes Grath, and GW1 Activity Leader to be nominated in January 2005.

v. Participants

All participants of the Plenary Forum plus selected participants (drafting team GW1), in close cooperation with the new Drafting Team on Chemical Monitoring.

vi. Type and intensity of work

Contribution to the drafting of the technical specifications, following the agreed table of contents to be discussed by the WG C plenary on 28th January 2005. Preparation of key items for discussion and participation in plenary workshops (one day each) in June, October 2005 and January 2006. WG C Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the discussions by communicating relevant information/papers on groundwater monitoring to the GW1 Drafting team.

WG C – Groundwater

Activity sheet 2 – Specifications on groundwater and protected areas (2005)

'Groundwater Protected Area Drafting team – GW2'

i. Objectives

To discuss core elements of technical specifications dealing with groundwater and protected areas (protected sites, drinking water protected areas) which should be considered as technical specifications as part of a groundwater guidance document.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in plenary WG C workshops and ad hoc technical meetings, and drafting of technical specifications on groundwater and protected areas, which will be part of a larger guidance document to be finalised after the adoption of the Groundwater Directive. The work will take account of the experience gained by Member States, information derived from the guidance document on wetlands, and drinking water considerations.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

A provisional date for a technical meeting of the drafting team is proposed on 6th June 2004. Other ad hoc meetings may be organised at the initiative of the GW2 Activity Leader. Presentations of the progress of the activity will be made at the occasion of each WG C plenary workshops at the following provisional dates: 7th June, 11th October and January 2006 in Brussels. The drafting of the technical specifications should be completed by the end of December 2005.

iv. Contact person/s

Philippe Quevauviller or Johannes Grath, and GW2 Activity Leader to be nominated in January 2005.

v. Participants

All participants of the Plenary Forum plus selected participants (drafting team GW2)

vi. Type and intensity of work

Contribution to the drafting of the technical specifications, following the agreed table of contents to be discussed by the WG C plenary on 28th January 2005. Preparation of key items for discussion and participation in plenary workshops (one day each) in June, October 2005 and January 2006. WG C Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the discussions by communicating relevant information/papers on groundwater protected areas to the GW2 Drafting team.

WG C – Groundwater

Activity sheet 3 – Direct/indirect discharges to groundwater (2005)

‘Groundwater Discharges Drafting team – GW3’

i. Objectives

To discuss core elements of technical specifications on direct/indirect discharges to groundwater which should be considered as technical specifications as part of a groundwater guidance document.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in plenary WG C workshops and ad hoc technical meetings, and drafting of technical specifications on direct/indirect discharges to groundwater, which will be part of a larger guidance document to be finalised after the adoption of the Groundwater Directive. The work will take account of the experience gained by Member States and information derived from the implementation of the 80/68/EEC Directive.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

A provisional date for a technical meeting of the drafting group is proposed on 10th October 2005 (the drafting activity should however start at an earlier stage). Other ad hoc meetings may be organised at the initiative of the GW3 Activity Leader. Presentations of the progress of the activity will be made at the occasion of each WG C plenary workshops at the following provisional dates: 7th June, 11th October and January 2006 in Brussels. The drafting of the technical specifications should be completed by the end of December 2005.

iv. Contact person/s

Philippe Quevauviller or Johannes Grath, and GW3 Activity Leader to be nominated in January 2005.

v. Participants

All participants of the Plenary Forum plus selected participants (drafting team GW3)

vi. Type and intensity of work

Contribution to the drafting of the technical specifications, following the agreed table of contents to be discussed by the WG C plenary on 28th January 2005. Preparation of key items for discussion and participation in plenary workshops (one day each) in June, October 2005 and January 2006. WG C Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the discussions by communicating relevant information/papers on groundwater discharges to the GW3 Drafting team.

WG C – Groundwater

Activity sheet 4 – Technical specifications on trend identification and reversal, and quantitative and chemical status compliance testing (2006)

'Groundwater Status and Trends Drafting team – GW4'

i. Objectives

To discuss core elements of technical specifications on trend identification and reversal, as well as on groundwater quantitative and chemical status compliance testing, which should be considered as technical specifications as part of a groundwater guidance document.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in plenary WG C workshops and ad hoc technical meetings, and drafting of technical specifications on trend identification and reversal, and compliance testing, which will be part of a larger guidance document to be finalised after the adoption of the Groundwater Directive. The work will take account of the WG 2.8 status and trend technical report and the conclusions of the WG C workshop of 18 October 2004.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

No provisional date for technical meetings of the drafting group has been set yet (it will actually depend on the state of the GWD negotiation progress). Ad hoc meetings may be organised at the initiative of the GW4 Activity Leader after the adoption of the GWD. Presentations of the progress of the activity will be made at the occasion of the WG C plenary workshop to be held in January 2006 in Brussels and at the occasion of the Groundwater conference in June 2006. The drafting of the technical specifications should be completed by the end of June 2006.

iv. Contact person/s

Philippe Quevauviller or Johannes Grath, and GW4 Activity Leader to be nominated in January 2005.

v. Participants

All participants of the Plenary Forum plus selected participants (drafting team GW4)

vi. Type and intensity of work

Contribution to the drafting of the technical specifications, following the agreed table of contents to be discussed by the WG C plenary on 28th January 2005. Preparation of key items for discussion and participation in the plenary workshop of January 2006 and the Groundwater Conference in June 2006. WG C Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the discussions by communicating relevant information/papers on groundwater status and trends to the GW4 Drafting team.

WG C – Groundwater

**Activity sheet 5 – Groundwater Conference / State of progress of WFD implementation
(2006)**

i. Objectives

To exchange information and views on the state of implementation of the WFD regarding groundwater, and to finalise the groundwater guidance document prior to its submission to the Water Directors and to the Article 21 Committee.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in a conference involving all WG C members and groundwater experts, and agreement on the final version of the groundwater guidance. Possible preparation of conference proceedings.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

The Groundwater Conference will be held In June 2006 (place to be defined, possibly Vienna – under the Austrian Presidency). The expected deliverables are a final version of the guidance document collecting the different pieces of text described in Activity sheets 1-5, as well as conference proceedings collecting WG C participant's contributions.

iv. Contact person/s

Philippe Quevauviller or Johannes Grath

v. Participants

All participants of the Plenary Forum, and groundwater experts.

vi. Type and intensity of work

Participation in the conference. Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the conference with presentation of case studies. The post-conference work will involve the finalisation of the groundwater guidance document and the preparation of conference proceedings.

WG C – Groundwater

Activity sheet 6 – Development of partnership on groundwater issues between the EU and non EU countries of the Mediterranean region

i. Objectives

To exchange experiences, share common challenges and develop synergies between the EU and non EU countries or river basins of the Mediterranean on groundwater issues, aiming at the adoption of a common vision on groundwater resources management, based on the WFD approach and objectives, in the Mediterranean region, in the framework of a “Joint WFD & EUWI process”. The development of partnership on groundwater issues between the Mediterranean countries should lead to a wider “joint Mediterranean process” on water related issues.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in a workshop or specific sessions during WG C workshops (covered by Activity sheets 1-4), other related regional/international workshops, and in the Groundwater Conference (Activity Sheet 5), identification of the most pressing needs of the Mediterranean region regarding groundwater resources management, selection of relevant groundwater issues to be further jointly addressed and drafting of technical specifications and specific recommendations, based on the WFD approach and the regional conditions, on these issues. The work will take account the experience gained by the Pilot River Basins, the Member States and the non EU countries of the Mediterranean region.

In addition to these tasks, linkages have to be established with other ongoing processes, activities and projects implemented in the Mediterranean region, inter alia, within the framework of the “Joint WFD/Mediterranean Component of the EUWI” Process.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

Besides the workshops referred to in Activity sheets 1-5 and the Groundwater conference (Activity sheet 6), a specific workshop will likely take place in 2005 (date to be defined) in a country of the Mediterranean area. Additional meetings or specific sessions during general workshops may be organised, depending on the progress of the activity and specific needs. The drafting of the technical specifications and specific recommendations should be completed by June 2006.

iv. Contact person/s

Mediterranean PRB coordinators, S. Detoc and Ph. Quevauviller.

v. Participants

Selected participants from the WG C Plenary Forum plus groundwater experts from EU and non EU countries of the Mediterranean, including PRB coordinators, partners from the Mediterranean Component of the EUWI and other Organisations/Institutes of the region involved in groundwater issues.

vi. Type and intensity of work

Preparation of key items for discussion and participation in the specific workshop (one day) and, as appropriate, in the other WG C workshops (one day each) and in the Groundwater Conference (2 days). Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the workshop(s) by presenting case studies and communicating relevant information/papers on relevant groundwater issues.

Annex 1.4 Working Group D on Reporting

I Introduction

The following sections outline the objectives, key activities and timetables for the “Working Group D on Reporting” (Reporting WG).

II Objectives

The overall objective of the Reporting Working Group is to identify information and data to be transmitted and to prepare guidance documents on the transmission and processing of information and data gathered in the frame of Directive 2000/60/EC. In the longer term, these guidance documents should be extended to cover the reporting aspects resulting from other water directives.

These guidance documents have to be drafted with the view of collecting targeted data and information, avoiding duplication and ensuring an efficient use of available data and information. They will, ultimately be submitted for approval to the Committee set up under the Water Framework Directive.

The initial concepts put forward by the EAF on reporting have been further developed and the document “Reporting for Water – Concept Report” which forms the basis for the Water Information System for Europe (WISE), is used as a basis for the work.

In addition, the process developed should provide a better access to validated data and information at the relevant level for all relevant users across institutional barriers, including both national levels, within transboundary river basins districts, the Commission, the European Environment Agency and the public.

III Key activities

When the group started and also during their work seven main topics were identified that needed to be worked out by the WG:

1. Guidance for reporting under the WFD;
2. Assessment of State of the Environment;
3. Information needs from International Organisations;
4. Assessment of Policy Effectiveness;
5. Information for the public;
6. The harmonisation of geographic information systems (GIS) for the purposes of the WFD;
7. The further development of an electronic reporting into a comprehensive Water Information System for Europe (WISE).

During 2003/04, the WG has mainly concentrated on topic 1. It is now appropriate for the mandate for the WG to be reviewed taking account of work completed and priorities for the future.

Much has been achieved on topic 1 in the last 2 years with the agreement of Guidance for reporting on competent authorities and with the development of Guidance for reporting on the analyses required by Article 5 of the WFD. In addition, work has

progressed on the development of a Water Information System for Europe (WISE) as outlined in the document "Reporting for Water – Concept Report". The work on these two topics will also be important in 2005 and on. For more details of the work on topic one see activity sheet 1.

Also it was proposed that there was going to be a drafting team on the technical development of WISE.

GIS continues to be an important issue for reporting under the WFD and it is proposed that an Expert Network be formed to provide advice to the WG on these aspects (see the separate mandate in Annex 1.5 for the GIS Expert Network for more details).

For each of the subjects, the activities will be related to the definition of the data and information to be reported as well as of the processes to make them available.

Less progress has been made on topic 2. For this subject a revised activity sheet will be presented for approval at the Water Directors meeting in Luxembourg 2005.

The topics 3, 4 en 5 are no specific tasks for the WG D, because of their more general level. When further developing WISE they will be direct or indirect part of WISE.

More detailed activity sheets are presented below.

IV Overall timetable

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Tasks				
1. Guidance for reporting under the WFD				
2. Assessment of State of Environment				
3. 6 Geographic information systems				
4. 7 Further development of WISE				
5. Other				
5.1 Information for the public	To be decided in 2006			
5.2 Assessment of Policy Effectiveness	To be decided in 2006			
5.3 Streamlining of reporting requirements with international conventions	To be decided in 2006			

V. Lead countries/body

The Commission / DG ENV will be the leader of WG D.

VI. Participants

In addition the Steering Group, all Member states are participating to the Working Group

VII. Links with other activities

The WG has to take into account the ongoing activities under the INSPIRE initiative and reporting activities under the UWWTD and IPPC (EPER database).

VIII. Type and intensity of work

In its work, the WG will be supported by topic drafting teams responsible for preparing working documents and preliminary guidelines to be discussed and agreed.

The WG and the topic drafting teams will have to deal with a wide range of technical issues (data exchange procedures, geographical information systems, web based applications etc...).

It will also need to maintain close interactions with the other WGs established under the CIS to address the reporting aspects resulting from their work in an appropriate way.

WG D – Reporting

Activity sheet 1 – Guidance for reporting under the WFD

i. Objectives

The objective of the guidance activity is to identify the information and the data that must be communicated to the Commission in order for the Member States to fulfil their legal obligations under the WFD. The ways of a harmonised and systematic communication between the Member States and the Commission will also need to be worked out,

The reported data and information will enable the Commission to establish whether member States are in compliance with the WFD.

The principles put forward in the document “Reporting for Water – Concept Report” should be followed by the DG.

Guidance documents will be developed to ensure that the information and data are comparable, plausible, and consistent and that cross-checking can be carried out (for example when two Member States report on a common River Basin). They should also promote a harmonised level of implementation, by ensuring that common procedures are followed where appropriate e.g. on intercalibration and other methodologies. The result of the work of other WG has to be carefully taken into consideration to guarantee coherence and avoid duplication

The existing national or international information systems or reporting mechanisms will be taken into consideration for developing the guidance documents

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

A stepwise approach (in terms of tasks and time) will be followed for the work:

- a. identification of information / data to be reported as well as their type (numerical, textual, maps)*
- b. definition of the level of aggregation / details*
- c. the establishment of technical formats will be worked out in close cooperation with the ‘WISE’ sub-group*

Guidance will further be developed on the reporting modalities for 2007 and 2010 covering:

- a. Monitoring programmes- Article 8 of the WFD;*
- b. Review of the river basin characteristics, the impact of human activity on the status of surface water and groundwater and an economic analysis of water use;*
- c. River basin management plans- Article 13 of the WFD*
- d. Progress on the implementation of programmes of measures – Article 15 of WFD*

For each of these reporting requirements, the concept of an electronically based reporting system will be elaborated along the principles enunciated in the document “Reporting for Water – Concept Report”. Particular attention will be given to the geographical scale at which data need to be reported and to the level of their aggregation. Another important consideration will be the degree of access needed by various users. The development of an electronically based reporting system will be a focus for 2005 with a workshop being held to facilitate an exchange of views on how the future development of WISE should be carried out. Further to this workshop, a sub-group ‘WISE’ will be established.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

	2004				2005				2006				2007			
Tasks																
1. Reporting on RB characteristics																
Preparation of guidance document																
1.1 Article 5 requirements	■	■	■	■												
1.2 Water Bodies at risk									■	■	■	■	■			
2. Reporting on Monitoring Programmes					■	■	■	■	■							
3. Reporting on RBMP									■	■	■	■	■	■		
4. Reporting Progress in implementing programme of measures													■	■	■	■

iv. Contact person/s

Name	Organisation/Member State	E-mail
Joachim D'Eugenio	DG ENV, D.2.	joachim.d'eugenio@cec.eu.int

v. Participants

BE, DE, FR, NL, AT, PL, UK

COM / DG ENV, COM / JRC, COM / EUROSTAT, EEA

vi. Type and intensity of work

The drafting team on Guidance for reporting under the WFD will be established under the Working Group D on Reporting, to carry out this activity. It will meet at a frequency and schedule to be decided at a later stage by the Working Group D.

The drafting team will define the modalities for drafting and analysing reporting options

WG D – Reporting

Activity sheet 2 – State of the Environment (Lead: EEA)

This sheet to be redrafted and reviewed by WG D.

Annex 1.5 Working Group D on Reporting - GIS Expert Network

I. Introduction

Discussions are on-going to develop a strategy ensuring that water-related data reporting by the Member States will meet the common vision on reporting for water, as set out during the Water Directors meeting in Rome (Reporting for water – concept report) and the development of WISE (“Water Information System for Europe”).

The common vision states that the European Commission (DG ENV, Eurostat and JRC) and the EEA are committed to continue the development of a new, comprehensive and shared European data and information management system for water, satisfying the needs of the Water Framework Directive (and related legislation), following a participatory approach towards the MS, in order to have it fully operational by 2010.

Following the Water Directors meeting in Rome (November 2003), GIS issues in relation to water policy reporting needs have been discussed with the Reporting Steering Group (consisting of DG ENV, JRC, Eurostat and EEA), focusing in particular on the reporting prototype development, testing and maintenance, and the decision on use of a common GIS dataset. This has led to the decision to organise a workshop in Brussels on the 4th June 2004, involving GIS experts from the Member States and members of the Reporting Steering Group. This workshop has shown that, while the need for the adoption of a common GIS dataset by the Commission and the EEA was recognised, this was not considered to be the highest priority at the moment in comparison to e.g. harmonisation of an encoding system. On the other hand, the Commission (DG ENV, JRC and EUROSTAT) and the EEA have jointly decided to use the CCM dataset (developed by JRC-IES) as a common dataset for the WISE system, and to pursue developments in this direction. Furthermore, a decision has been taken to revitalise a GIS expert network in order to discuss harmonisation and information exchange on GIS issues in the light of the WFD and other requirements (in particular INSPIRE, EIONET Water, etc.).

The present mandate describes the objectives of this new GIS expert network under the existing WG D Reporting. The formal appointment of the Member States representatives to this group will be made after the 2nd GIS workshop to be held on 15th November 2004 in Brussels.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the new GIS expert network are to discuss issues of harmonisation of national datasets (including data modelling, reference systems, metadata and data validation) and encoding systems (considering data requirements of the WFD (including consideration of water bodies), Eurowaternet, INSPIRE), of public data accessibility, and to follow-up the development of a common system which will be used by the Commission on the basis of harmonised MS encoded data in WISE. The expert group will also follow-up related RTD projects (in particular RISE, MOTIIVE, Geoland, SAGE and Orchestra). The aim is to set up a **WISE GIS process** to ensure that appropriate tools for reporting are being developed.

III. Key activities

Based on the above-mentioned objectives, the first activities of the Expert Network are:

1. Consolidating experience on data transfer and harmonisation in the context of WFD reporting based on the GIS Guidance document and 2005 reporting sheets (Activity 1)
2. Developing a common encoding system in close cooperation with Eurostat, JRC and EEA (Activity 2)
3. Collaborating on the development and testing of a common GIS dataset under development by JRC as part of WISE (Activity 3).

Activities of the expert network have to be conceived with the view of collecting targeted data and information, avoiding duplication with on-going activities and ensuring an efficient use of available data and information. Clarifying the information needs (based on the reporting sheets, the GIS Guidance and other relevant documents) and the process necessary to fulfil them will be part of Activity 1.

Following the workshop of 15 November 2004, and in the context of the above timeframe, the activities in 2005-2006 will consist in workshops to share information/experience on the following issues and to agree on a common GIS encoding for water features. In-between the workshops, drafting teams will prepare draft deliverables for the various activities. The timeframe of the first phase (2005) of the expert group programme is as follows:

1. Workshop on 26 April 2005
2. Workshop on 22 November 2005

Discussion topics will concern the necessary actions to fulfil the activities including information needs, harmonisation of national datasets, common encoding system, and testing of common European dataset. Two workshops will also be planned in 2006. These meetings will involve the overall GIS expert network; if necessary, *ad hoc* technical meetings will be organised, e.g. drafting team meetings on common encoding system led by Eurostat, or meetings linked to RTD projects.

IV. Lead organisations

The coordination of the expert group will be ensured by DG ENV. The group will be co-chaired jointly by Eurostat (leading Activity 2) and JRC-IEC (leading Activity 3). The work progress will be regularly reported to the Reporting Steering Group (DG ENV, JRC, EUROSTAT, EEA) and the WG D on Reporting.

Name	Organisation/Member State	E-mail
Philippe Quevauviller	EC, DG ENV	philippe.quevauviller@cec.eu.int
Albrecht Wirthmann	EC, Eurostat	albrecht.wirthmann@cec.eu.int
Palle Haastrup	EC, JRC-IES	palle.haastrup@jrc.it

V. Participants

The participants are GIS experts from the Member States, Candidate and Associated States, representatives of the international river conventions, and representatives of RTD projects.

VI. Links with other activities

The GIS expert network is operated under the umbrella of the WG D (Reporting). Close links will be established with the INSPIRE initiative as well as with on-going RTD projects funded by the DG Research. The results of the GIS expert work, e.g. the common encoding system, will contribute to the harmonisation efforts within the INSPIRE framework.

VII. Type and intensity of work

The expert network will be composed of Member States and other countries representatives, which will meet in the frame of workshops for exchanging information and knowledge (2005-2006). The Steering Group will be the same as the Reporting Steering Group.

Specific activities to be carried out by the GIS experts are:

- Discussion of terms of reference and work programme.
- Participation in workshops and finalisation of technical reports prepared as a result of workshop discussions/presentations.
- Decision on open issues to be presented to the Strategic Co-ordination Group.

The work programme 2005-2006 covers two workshops per year specifically dealing with GIS issues.

For specific purposes, **specific experts** may be involved and be used as a reservoir of expertise for discussing specific issues, e.g. research integration, standardisation, etc.

WG D - GIS Expert Network

Activity sheet 1 (2005) – Consolidating experience on data transfer and harmonisation based on the CIS-GIS guidance and 2005 reporting sheets

i. Objectives

To consolidate the experience gained in using the CIS-GIS guidance and further developing it where appropriate; to clarify the information needs (based on the 2005 reporting sheets and other relevant documents) and the process to fulfil them.

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in GIS workshops. The expected outcome is (1) a clarification of the GIS information which is needed for WFD reporting purposes and the process necessary to fulfil these needs, and (2) an analysis of the experience gained by Member States with the use of CIS-GIS and of the difficulties encountered. The work aims to possibly further developing aspects not sufficiently covered in the GIS guidance or the 2005 reporting sheets.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

General GIS workshops will take place in Brussels in April and November 2005. A preparatory drafting team will prepare the input on this activity to the workshop. Workshop reports will be prepared at the occasion of each meeting. Since the results of item (1) will affect other activities, this activity should be finalised by mid-2005.

iv. Contact person/s

Philippe Quevauviller (ad interim)

v. Participants

All participants in the workshops, selected participants to join a preparatory drafting team.

vi. Type and intensity of work

Preparation of presentations for the speakers and participation in the GIS workshops (one day each). Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the preparation of the GIS workshop report by communicating relevant information/papers.

WG D - GIS Expert Network

Activity sheet 2 (2005) – Harmonisation of encoding system

i. Objectives

To exchange information on good practice regarding data encoding amongst Member States, Candidate and Associated states, in order to achieve a common encoding system at EU level

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in GIS workshops and ad hoc drafting team meetings. The expected outcome is the achievement of a common EU encoding system for WISE GIS, which will support both the implementation of INSPIRE and the development of a common dataset by the European Commission.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

General GIS Workshops will take place in Brussels in April and November 2005. Adrafting team under the leadership of EUROSTAT will prepare the input for these GIS workshops. Workshop reports will be prepared at the occasion of each meeting. A drafting team will prepare the deliverables for the workshops.

iv. Contact person/s

Albrecht Wirthmann (Eurostat)

v. Participants

All participants in the GIS workshops, selected participants in the drafting team on data encoding.

vi. Type and intensity of work

Preparation of presentations for the speakers and participation in the GIS workshops (one day each). Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the preparation of the GIS workshop report by communicating relevant information/papers.

WG D - GIS Expert Network

Activity sheet 3 (2005-2006) – Development and testing of common GIS dataset

i. Objectives

Linked to the work of Activity 1 and on case studies using test data from selected Member States, a common GIS dataset will be further developed (based on the CCM dataset) and used in the context of WISE (Water Information System for Europe).

ii. Tasks and expected outcomes

Participation in GIS workshops and technical development of the dataset. The expected outcome is to enable the use of MS data (reported according to a common encoding system) in the EC GIS dataset so that visualisation of data linked to WFD reporting are made possible at EU level. Furthermore, the impact of the improvement of CCM will be described.

iii. Detailed timetable and milestones

Workshops will take place in Brussels in April and November 2005. Workshop reports will be prepared at the occasion of each meeting. In parallel, a drafting team will take place after the April workshop, involving representatives from the GIS expert group and representatives of RTD projects.

iv. Contact person/s

Palle Haastrup, Alfred de Jager (JRC)

v. Participants

All participants in the workshops, selected participants in the GIS working group for a drafting team to prepare deliverables for the workshops.

vi. Type and intensity of work

Preparation of presentations for the speakers and participation in the workshops (one day each). Participants will be invited and encouraged to contribute to the preparation of the workshop report by communicating relevant information/papers

Annex 1.6 Activity on “Links between Water Framework Directive and Agriculture”

I. Introduction

The work carried out so far on characterisation of water bodies for the Water Framework Directive suggests that across the EU a high proportion of water bodies will be at risk of failing to meet the Water Framework Directive’s ‘good status’ objectives due to the impact of agriculture. For several countries this may be the most important factor. The impacts from agriculture that could affect a Member State’s ability to achieve the Directive’s objectives include, above all, the impacts of nutrients (phosphates and nitrates), from pesticides, erosion, siltation and microbiological pollution, as well as impacts from water abstraction for agriculture and others²⁷. The hydro-morphological impacts of agricultural practices through land drainage and certain flood risk management activities are also an issue.

The recent reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has increased the opportunities to support farmers in addressing some environmental issues. The working document²⁸ prepared by the European Commission (DG Environment) has highlighted a number of opportunities where the CAP can help achieve the WFD objectives. What is now lacking are practical examples and information on the overall nature and scale of the agricultural pressures in Europe and the degree to which existing measures, including CAP, will contribute to achieving the WFD objectives.

Acknowledging this challenge, the Water Directors agreed in their meeting of 22/23 June 2004 to take forward an activity in the context of the Common Implementation Strategy and to establish an EU Strategic Steering Group to address these issues. The timescale for its work is urgent, given the WFD timetable (draft River Basin Management Plans 2008; ecological status objectives 2015) and the timing of CAP developments, notably the development of the Rural Development Programmes.

II. Objectives

The aim of the Group will be to identify the issues which affect a Member State’s ability to meet WFD objectives as a result of pressures from agriculture, and to put forward suggestions for how best to manage the risk of not meeting these objectives taking into account the opportunities of the reformed CAP. There is also a role for the group to consider the potential impacts of achieving the WFD objectives upon agriculture, and how this effects policy development and implementation decisions.

III. Key subjects and main tasks

Some of the key questions emerging from the current discussions are:

- What is the extent of the pressures and impacts resulting from agriculture?
- What instruments and measures exist within the CAP (1. and 2. pillar) and what result do they achieve/are likely to achieve as regards reducing the pressures?

²⁷ *Note: The activity will cover all relevant pressures and impacts depending on the information available and the input received from the participants.*

²⁸ *Working Document “The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and tools within the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) to support its implementation” of 21 November 2003.*

- Given their fixed timetables, how can the two implementation processes on CAP and WFD and the co-operation between competent authorities be optimised in order that they make full use of their potential to promote each other's objectives.
- Will the reformed CAP be sufficient to support the achievement of the WFD objectives and what further measures might be necessary?
- What is the contribution of other Community policies (for example, the Nitrates Directive, pesticides thematic strategy, NATURA 2000 network) in achieving good status under WFD, and vice-versa?

On this basis, the main tasks of the Group would be as follows:

1. Determine the scale of the challenge facing MS from agricultural pressures in meeting WFD (and other relevant Directive, in particular the Nitrates and the Groundwater Directive) objectives.
 - Collation of data from Article 5 reports and other existing evidence to identify scale of problem
 - Assessment against WFD and other EU Directive (Nitrates/Groundwater) objectives
2. Determine what measures are already in place to reduce agricultural pressures and impacts and how far they will go to meeting WFD objectives, including evidence from River Basin Pilots. Assessment of regulation, economic instruments and other activities (voluntary, co-operative agreements etc) already in place in MS to tackle agricultural pressures including activities under CAP reform. This would include an evaluation how delivery of the WFD objectives is tackled in current Rural Development Programmes.
3. Identify the gap between what will be achieved through current activities (identified in objective 2) and what is required to meet WFD objectives.
 - Assessment of the scale of the changes in farm practices needed
 - Assessment of new measures that will need to be introduced
 - Assessment of the importance/financial allocations MS already attribute or will have to attribute to the WFD in their R & D Programmes linked to issues identified under Article 5 of the WFD.
4. Identify potential areas where relevant EU policies, including the WFD and CAP, can be further improved, in particular as regards their implementation of the WFD, in order to meet the objectives set out in these policies.
5. Set out what information we expect to obtain in the short, medium and long-term in order to inform objectives 1, 2, 3 and 4. Identify further R & D required to ensure robust evidence base for development of policies to meet WFD objectives
6. Provide recommendations on potential opportunities for minimising the risk of not meeting WFD targets, and ways to prioritise action to address these risks, including appropriate policy approaches and the possible use of exemptions (both time extended and less stringent objectives, based on the environmental objectives document currently under development).

IV. Pilot River Basin (PRB) Component

The pilot river basins (PRB) will play an important role in providing some 'real life' answers to some of the questions posed. They will provide valuable case-studies and important evidence that can be used to develop practical recommendations. The issues to be addressed by interested PRBs.

- Investigate what current CAP measures have contributed, may contribute in the future and could potentially contribute to delivering WFD objectives. This should be broken down to the various instruments foreseen under the reformed CAP. Thereby, explore the extent that measures of the CAP (e.g. cross-compliance and agri-environmental schemes) will deliver WFD objectives.
- Identify those farm practices and related measures not explored under the previous bullet that contribute significantly to reducing water pollution from agriculture.
- Pilot approaches to educate and inform farmers (and the public) on issues related to agricultural pressures
- Test novel approaches to tackling agricultural pressures (drawing from experience in different MS), identify successful measures, including those taken under CAP schemes.
- Analyse requirements for an integrated river basin-related programming of WFD-relevant R&D measures.
- Provide an indication of most effective farm practice changes. For example, by using targeted Rural Development Regulation (RDR) schemes to test what changes in land use, management practice could be achieved.

V. Organisation

The Water Directors called for the establishment of a EU Strategic Steering Group. This Group should co-ordinate several parallel work streams, including the PRB component, which contributes to the various deliverables. The EU Strategic Steering Group would delegate the work and report progress to the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) and the Water Directors. In order to prepare the EU Strategic Steering Group, preparatory meetings of the leaders of the activities may be necessary.

In order to work in an iterative way towards the implementation of this work programme and to further clarify some details, it is proposed to split the work plan into three phases:

1. Scoping Phase: the first meeting of the EU Strategic Steering Group should clarify the mandate, the concrete outputs of the various work streams and the distribution of tasks as well as the communication between the members of the group.
2. Interim Phase: this phase should focus on preparing some first (interim) results so that input in the wider debate can already be provided by the end of 2005.
3. Final Phase: this phase completes the ongoing work and finalises a report on the activity as a whole.

VI. Expected outcomes

Overall, the activity aims at the following outcomes:

- Identification of opportunities to use the existing (and potential future) CAP measures (including the flexibility they offer for MS) for delivering WFD objectives (short-term and long-term), e.g. environmental priorities for rural development, use of Pillar I possibilities such as cross compliance). This could include recommendations of successful measures under e.g. agri-environment.
- Identification of possible further improvements of the implementation of the CAP and the WFD to better meet the objectives of these policies.
- Identify what other mechanisms (apart from CAP) are available to MS to meet WFD objectives, e.g. implementation of other Community legislation such as the Nitrates Directive.
- Information sharing on best approaches for engaging and educating farmers and the public about agricultural pressures.
- Advice on gaps in evidence base and key areas for which further work, including R & D, is essential.
- Providing links between EU Water, Agriculture and Rural agendas and authorities (including at Director level)
- Gather evidence and information to support decisions on WFD objectives in relation to agricultural pressures.

The activity should be targeted to the Member States authorities, the Commission and interest groups, including farmers and environmental organisations who are dealing with the WFD and the CAP. The aim is to produce useful advice in form of reports, information sheets or guidance that can foster the integration of both policies throughout the EU. Any output should be clearly identify its target group (EU level, MS level, others) and ensure that other relevant activities and information sources are adequately considered (e.g. FP6 RTD project on WFD and CAP).

In particular, a final report should be produced to highlight the main achievements and findings of the activity. In addition, a number of specific deliverables should be produced by the various work streams such as reports, information sheets and guidance. E.g. a report on the nature and extent of the pressures on water quality and quantity from agriculture and the impacts upon achieving the WFD objectives could be produced. In addition, recommendations on how to address these pressures with the instruments of the CAP, as well as an information sheet including a selection of case studies stemming from the pilot river basins should be prepared. The detailed format and content of these deliverables will be agreed in the scoping phase.

VII. Timetable and milestones

Time	2005				2006			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Actions								
Scoping Phase								
Interim Phase								
Final Phase								
Deliverables	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Detailed mandates of all activities		X						
First (interim) results				X				
Final report including recommendations								X

VIII. Lead and Participants

The UK and the Commission (co-chair of EU Strategic Steering Group) have offered to lead this activity, but cooperation from other Member States is vital. Other co-leaders are invited to sign up for developing a particular work stream and elaborate specific deliverables. The Joint Research Centre and the European Environment Agency are invited to take such a co-lead and have indicated their interest to contribute with specific projects to this activity.

EEA and JRC initiated a framework action to provide assessments of diffuse nutrients inputs: the driving forces and their impact on water quality to be performed on a large-scale catchment level covering EU-31. The action will be based on fostered cross-sectoral and cross-institutional cooperation. The aim is to enable the evaluation of effectiveness of existing European policies focusing on the problem of Eutrophication (N+P) and high nitrate levels and to provide information to identify gaps in these policies. The deliverables that could be provided in the context of the WFD CIS are:

- A report on sectoral and spatial source apportionment of N and P to the aquatic environment. The focus will be on the agricultural contribution in Europe on a catchment basis including an assessment on individual shares of selected agricultural sectors /activities (different management of livestock husbandry and crop growing patterns) and the spatial distribution of these contributions. First results are envisaged for end 2005.
- An analysis on how and where changes in land use practises would influence the water quality in the basin (mid term, 2006). – In the short term, this could focus on catchments in “problem areas”.
- In a longer term (2006/2007), a prospective analysis on effects of different scenarios of land management according to the possible development of the CAP and other influences (possible open market aspects) is planned.

The quantitative view on European scale has to be supported and validated by small scale qualitative assessments out of Pilot River Basin Component. To this regard, the JRC will ensure the link and the close co-ordination with the pilot river basins. The JRC will also provide input through its activities in the JRC Work Programme 2005, including, e.g. focusing on spatial impact assessments of environmental components of Rural Development plans. This will involve testing of indicators and the appraisal of impact of measures aimed at promoting rural development and at improving linking across various

agricultural and environmental management policies. The outcome of the JRC activities will be made available to the Strategic Steering Group.

The Strategic Steering Group membership will be made up of representatives from the water and agriculture administrations of the Commission, Member States (incl. EEA and candidate countries), and interested parties, including farmers and environmental organisations. Precise criteria will be dependent upon the amount of interest received.

IX. Contact person/s

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X. Type and intensity of work

The EU Strategic Steering Group would meet two to three times a year in order to assess progress, further develop the activities and prepare input for meetings of the Water Directors and ensuring close cooperation and communication with the Strategic Co-ordination Group. The intensity of the work of the different work streams will depend on the scope of the projects and the resources and contributions available.

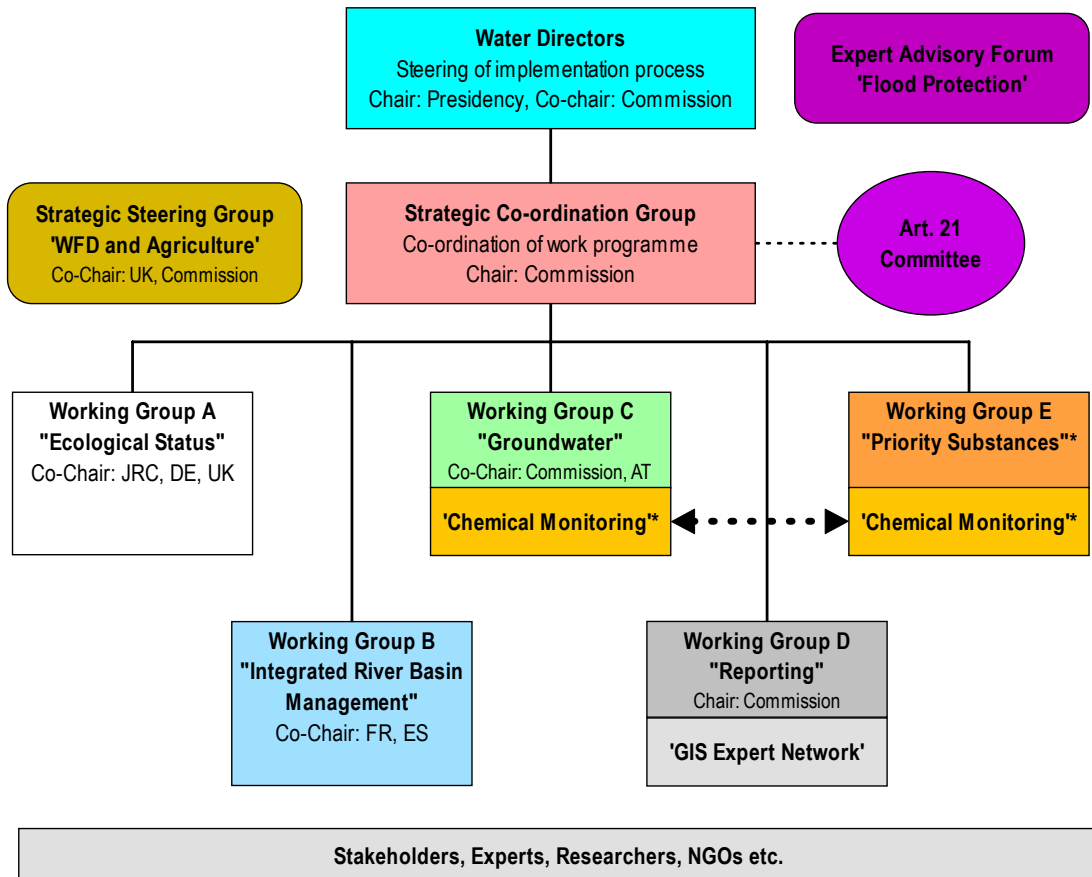
Annex 2 - Approaches for maintaining networks of the former Working Groups

As set out in Section 5 of the work programme for 2003/2004, there are a number of initiatives which should facilitate the maintaining of the network of the former Working Groups of 2001/2002. Such activities shall ensure that best use is made of their experience and their expertise in the ongoing implementation process. The former Working Groups are therefore encouraged and invited to consider the following measures in order to maintain their network:

1. **Maintain contact database and exchange information** regularly (e.g. through newsgroups or email circulation). E.g. Former Working Group 2.4 has established a 'CIS COAST network' and the former WG leaders ensure that the members of the network are regularly updated about relevant developments. The network is still active until now and provides valuable expert input to the CIS process, in particular the WG on Ecological Status.
2. **Organise regular workshops** of working group experts to exchange information on recent developments. Such workshops could take place every 12 – 18 months and the results could be disseminated through the new CIS Working Groups. The SCG should be informed about such events in order to ensure that they take place under the umbrella of the CIS. Some former Working Groups have foreseen such workshops during 2005, e.g. WG 2.2 on HMWB.
3. Set-up informal, dynamic mechanism for providing information about **new tools and additional best practices examples** as they emerge. E.g. Working Group 2.1 – IMPRESS was considering the establishment of an internet site where new tools and best practices examples can be collected. Ongoing research project may be able to provide and maintain such platforms.
4. **Follow and support the pilot river basin testing** of the Guidance. During the testing of the Guidance Documents a number of questions will emerge which need to be addressed together with the members of the Working Groups who drafted the Guidance. The Joint Research Centre has set up a "Platform of Information Exchange" – PIE (http://viso.ei.jrc.it/wfd_prb/index.html) and will organise regular workshops involving some members of the former WGs. In addition, the members of the WGs should get involved directly in their national PRBs. Moreover, additional events such as workshops may be organised in order to address the testing of one particular guidance.
5. **Support new Working Groups** by fulfilling specific, defined tasks. During the work under the new work programme, specific issues may emerge which require the expertise from the former Working Group. Rather than setting up new groups, the former WG networks should be used to address these issues. E.g. for the intercalibration it is necessary to validate the selection of intercalibration sites by experts for the different water categories such as river, lakes and coastal waters. The WG A will continue to rely on the already former experts groups and will, for example, invite the former WG 2.4 to review the data for transitional and coastal waters before the sites are being proposed to the Article 21 Committee. Since this may have some resource implications, the SCG should be informed in advance if certain emerging tasks are mandated to former Working Groups.

For all the above-mentioned initiatives, the WFD CIRCA system may be used to facilitate the maintenance of the networks since all WG members will continue to have access and the WG leaders keep their administrative rights. In addition, the newsgroup function of the WFD CIRCA could be used more intensively for the above purposes. The Commission (DG Environment) will support the maintenance of the networks and regularly report to the SCG and the Water Directors on the state-of-play of that cross-cutting activity.

Annex 3 - Working Structure under the WFD Common Implementation Strategy in 2005/2006 (overview)



* to be established later