



# **Priority Substances – Outcome of Water Directors meeting**

**WG Chemicals  
15-16 December**

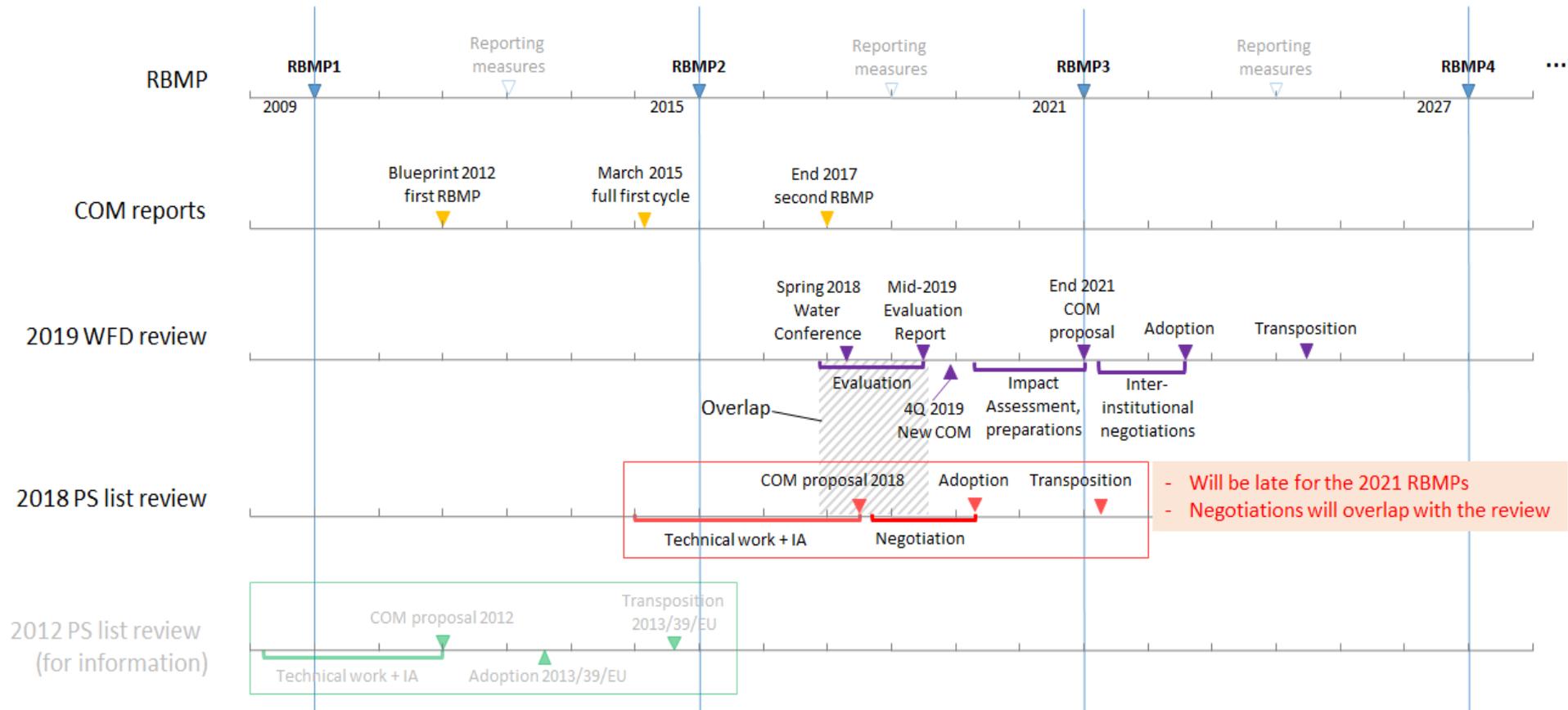
## Review of PS list

- *Review of PS list every 6 years, and proposals as appropriate. Last COM proposal in 2012.*
  - *Current review :*
    - Technical work by JRC and dedicated subgroup. Presentation of results of this technical work to WG Chemicals mid-December.
    - COM proposal would happen after mid-2018.
- > Overlap between preparation and negotiation of this proposal and the WFD review



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# Timeline for the reviews



This timetable is tentative and has not yet been formally validated by the European Commission

# The WFD review : an opportunity to develop a new approach to chemicals

- ***Proposal : Develop a more holistic approach to chemicals, taking into account mixtures***
  - groups of substances identified by their mode of action and group EQSs / individual EQS likely still necessary, incl. at national level and EQSs set at EU level. Emphasis on trends for uPBTs.
- *Preliminary proposal based on existing work at expert level-> Need for comprehensive study (assess reliability and maturity of tools), discussion and consultation.*

# Proposal for the WFD review as regards chemicals

- ***Aims :***
- ***Better assessment of risks :***
  - better coverage of different categories of use of substances,
  - Staying "ahead of the game" for newly introduced substances,
  - Avoiding ever-increasing list of PSs (usually resulting in maps becoming more red),
  - Taking into account mixtures effect.
- ***Better targeting of measures.***

# Proposal for the coordination of the EQSD and WFD review

- *Instead of COM proposal in 2018, **bundle PS related proposal with any proposal from WFD review, after 2019.***
- ***Conclusions of technical work would be taken into account in assessment of pressures and impact to prepare 2021 RBMPs.***

# Rationale for the proposed way forward

- ***Consistency with the WFD review*** : would not be coherent to prepare and negotiate a PS legislative proposal based on current approach while at the same time considering a new framework.
- ***Changes from EQSD revision would be late for 2021 RBMPs.*** Results of technical work taken into account in the pressures and impact analysis -> effects already in 2021.
- ***Prioritisation of resources and focus on WFD review.***

# Conclusions from the Water Directors

- *WD supported the process and timetable proposed by the Commission to coordinate the reviews of the WFD and the EQSD.*
- *WD welcomed and supported the proposal by the Commission to consider a more holistic approach to regulation of chemicals in the aquatic environment in the context of the WFD review, based on the principles outlined in the Commission's paper.*
- *WD emphasised the **need to take into account feasibility and cost** when designing the approach, and to tackle **legal and practical issues related to the identification and implementation of measures** to reduce emissions, on the basis of the assessment of the risk coming from mixtures. WD also highlighted the need to ensure **coordination with other legislations** (such as legislation to authorise the use of chemicals and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive). WD called for **further discussions at expert level within the Working Group Chemicals to ensure a proper consideration of all technical aspects.***

# Conclusions from the Water Directors

- *WD agreed that the **on-going technical work on the review of the priority substances list needs to be finalised** before it can be discussed how this could be considered in the preparations of the 3<sup>rd</sup> River Basin Management Plan.*

# Questions to the WG Chemicals

- *Are there any general principles missing in the new proposed approach to chemicals ?*
- *Do you see other important issues that should be tackled by the new approach ?*



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**Thank you for your attention**