

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



**Work Programme 2010-2012**

As agreed by the Water Directors – 30 November 2009

'Supporting the implementation of the first river basin  
management plans'

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

## **1 Introduction**

The agreement to start a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive<sup>1</sup> (WFD) in 2001 was seen as a milestone in working together towards a successful implementation of the core water law at EU level. Over the past years, the impressive results, the added value and the cooperative spirit of the exercise have been widely recognised. Already in the first steps of implementation (the Article 5 reports on the environmental and economic analysis, and the Article 8 reports on monitoring networks), the deliverables of the CIS were incorporated to a great extent. Furthermore, the Floods Directive implementation is now closely tied in with the WFD Common Implementation Strategy. The completion of the first river basin management plans under the WFD in 2009 will reveal whether the CIS process delivered the expected results and fulfilled its objectives.

Despite its achievements, there are a number of issues which still need to be addressed in the first years of the implementation of the first river basin management plans. In defining these issues, there is a general request to simplify the work intensive process and to set the right focus on activities that are directly relevant for implementation of the Water Framework Directive, its daughter Directives and the Floods Directive. It is also crucial that a next phase of the CIS products need better dissemination towards the practical implementation level.

The Water Directors discussed principles, priorities and organisational issues of the upcoming CIS period during their meetings in Paris (November 2008) and Brno (June 2009). These principles, priorities and organisational issues are presented below. Furthermore, the detailed mandates for each activity are attached as Annexes to this work programme.

## **2 Principles for the period 2010-2012**

The Water Directors recognise the usefulness of the Common Implementation Strategy to date and want to continue this strategy. The following principles are applicable to the CIS work programme for the period 2010-2012.

The work programme 2010-2012 will be simplified compared to the programme 2007-2009. This simplification applies to the number of permanent activities and to the work covered by these activities.

The activities have a direct link to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive, its daughter Directives or the Floods Directive.

The work on Ecological Status, Chemical Status, Reporting, Floods and Groundwater stems from specific formal obligations in the WFD, its daughter Directives and the Floods Directive, which require EU coordination.

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<sup>1</sup> 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)

Other important topics that are addressed in the work programme include agriculture, climate change, biodiversity and water scarcity and droughts. The work on biodiversity will also start with a workshop in 2010.

The following topics will be addressed on an ad hoc basis in the period 2010-2012: Science Policy interface, Hydromorphology, Environmental Objectives and Exemptions, Economic issues and River Basin Management Plans.

A mixture of strategic, cross-sectoral discussion fed by technical elements stays the basis of the work, and it is requested that discussions remain pragmatic.

The CIS groups will work more on dissemination of its products to the wider public, producing more understandable summaries of outcomes.

The CIS participants will be the European Commission, representatives from the Member States and river basin authorities, experts from national and international levels, stakeholders and NGOs.

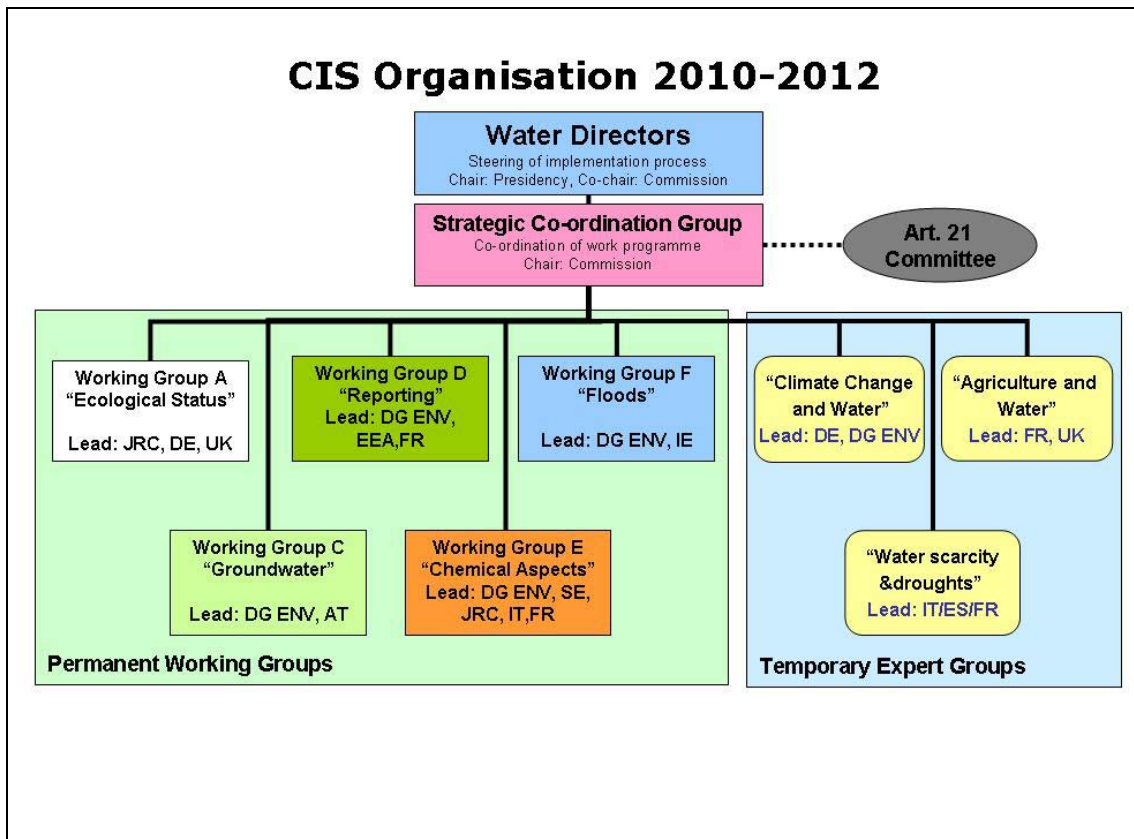
More detailed information on the activities is provided in a mandate for each activity. Ad hoc activities will be presented to and agreed by the Strategic Coordinated Group and the Water Directors before their start.

### **3 Organisational aspects and structure**

Below, the structure of the CIS for the period 2010-2012 is presented, reflecting the principles outlined above. The CIS will continue to be headed by the Water Directors, who convene twice a year in a meeting co-chaired by the EU Presidency and the European Commission (DG Environment). The Strategic Coordination Group will prepare the meetings of the Water Directors and will guard the overall overview of the CIS progress.

In general, documents that will be discussed during CIS meetings will be made available two weeks in advance of the meeting. This is particularly relevant for documents that are foreseen for final commenting or final agreement.

Five Working Groups will continue to exist, whilst three Expert Groups will continue ongoing work that already took place under the CIS work programme 2007-2009. For the work on biodiversity and water, it will be decided whether a new Expert Group will be established after a workshop in spring 2010. Other activities will take place on an ad-hoc basis.



**Figure 1** Organisational structure of CIS 2010-2012

### 3.1 Working Groups

- The following Working Groups remain unchanged: Working Groups A Ecological Status, C Groundwater, D Reporting, E Chemical Aspects (before Priority Substances, integrating the Chemical Monitoring Activity) and Working Group F Floods;
- These Working Groups are permanent groups, have a stable membership, meet at least twice a year and report to the SCG, Committee and Water Directors on their deliverables and planning. The Commission leads these groups, preferably together with a MS.
- In order to fulfil a specific or technical task, a sub-group may be established under a Working Group. The mandate of such sub-groups is part of that of the Working Groups and should be task-oriented and time-limited. The establishment of such a sub-groups will be agreed by the SCG and the Water Directors.

### 3.2 Expert Groups

- The Strategic Steering Groups on Agriculture and Water and on Climate Change and Water, and the Expert Network on Water Scarcity and Droughts will be renamed to Expert Groups. The Strategic Steering Group on Hydromorphology will not continue in the form of a specific group in the work programme 2010-2012.
- The Expert Groups cover important activities closely related to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and related Directives, and

for which there is a need for continuous information exchange. In-depth discussion may also be needed for these topics, e.g. via workshops.

- The Expert Groups meet on a regular basis as required by its mandate and the chairmanship is shared between Member States and/or the Commission. The Expert Groups work on the basis of a mandate with well-defined activities. When the tasks are fulfilled the Expert Group will be dissolved.
- After a workshop in Spring 2010, it will be discussed whether a new Expert Group on Biodiversity and Water will be established. If such group will be established, a mandate will be drafted and presented to the SCG and Water Directors for approval after the workshop in 2010. Adequate coordination will be ensured with Nature Directors .

### **3.3 Ad hoc activities**

- Issues not covered by Working or Expert Groups but still important should be subject to one-off activities in the period 2010-2012. These are referred to as Ad hoc activities, and it is most likely that they will take the form of well-prepared workshops, although other working formats can also be used.
- The workshop contents and organisation will be presented to the SCG and Water Directors for agreement and delegates will be nominated per event. No permanent groups will be established for these activities. The workshops will be well prepared, managed and evaluated by a core group of MS and/or COM (and/or SCG stakeholders), involving the participants. If it appears that more continuous work is needed on an ad-hoc activity, it can be requested to the Water Directors that an Expert Group is established.
- Besides the topic of Biodiversity and Water (see 3.2), the Water Directors tentatively identified a number of topics for which it is likely that ad-hoc activities will be established during 2010-2012 period:
  - Science Policy Interface
  - Hydromorphology
  - Environmental Objectives and Exemptions
  - Economic issues

Specific mandates (if appropriate in the form of workshop outlines) will be developed for each topic to be endorsed by the Water Directors.

### **3.4 Link to EU work on Climate Change Adaptation**

The EC White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change<sup>2</sup> identifies the need for a working partnership with EU Member States and proposes establishing an Impact and Adaptation Steering Group (IASG). In practice, this group will be an informal consultative forum whose role will be to oversee the development of the four pillars set out in the White Paper. The intention is to ensure that processes including current working/technical groups are used as much as possible and that a proliferation of new working groups is avoided.

Therefore, any initiatives formulated by this IASG related to water policies, and which may require input from the CIS process, will be presented to the Water Directors, who will then decide the most appropriate format or group to work on the initiative. The Expert Group on Climate Change and Water will continue to follow the general progress of the follow-up work of the White Paper, which may also be relevant for

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<sup>2</sup> COM/2009/0147

other groups, such as WG F on Floods, or the Expert Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts.

## **4 Better dissemination**

In the period 2010-2012 the following actions will be undertaken to support better dissemination of CIS outcomes.

- Access will be granted to the restricted part of CIRCA to everyone who is involved in WFD implementation in local, regional or national administrations and who requests access<sup>3</sup>.
- CIRCA will be restructured in order to make it more transparent and user-friendly;
- The CIS meeting calendar is put on the public part of CIRCA (including meetings of subgroups) and is updated regularly;
- Short summaries per activity will be provided which include the objective of the activity and links to finalised deliverables, and are updated regularly.

It is noted that dissemination towards the practical implementation level varies per Member State and river basin. Actions to support better dissemination are therefore Member State or river basin specific, and improvements in dissemination rely largely on actions in the Member State or river basin itself.

## **5 Concluding remarks**

The work programme 2007-2009 delivered on the work that was planned, and was the last work programme to support the preparation of the first River Basin Management Plans. It will become clear in the coming years whether this work programme delivered on the improvement of the quality and the comparability of the implementation.

It is however already clear that further improvement of the quality and comparability of implementation is needed. This is related to implementation requirements directly stemming from obligations in the WFD, its daughter Directives of the Floods Directive, or this is related to issues which have proved to pose a particular problem in the early stages of implementation.

The work programme 2010-2012 addresses all identified priorities to date in a wide range of issues. However, the CIS process is flexible enough to incorporate any emerging priority that may come up in the period 2010-2012.

The work programme 2010-2012 is simplified compared to previous work programmes, as the permanent groups are limited and the mandates of each activity are targeted towards implementation of the WFD, its Daughter Directives or the Floods Directive. It is important that the activities in the coming years are managed in such a way that the main objectives of a) simplification, b) direct relevance for the Directives and c) better dissemination will stay high on the agenda.

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<sup>3</sup> More information on how to get access can be obtained at:  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/iep/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/iep/index_en.htm)

## Glossary

COM	European Commission (mainly referring to the responsible unit DG Environment D.1)
CIS	Common Implementation Strategy for the Water Framework Directive
DG ENV	DG Environment of the European Commission
DG RTD	DG Research of the European Commission
ECOSTAT	Ecological Status
EG	Expert Group
EN	Expert Network
IASG	Impact and Adaptation Steering Group
GIGs	Geographical Intercalibration Groups
GIS	Geographical Information System
GW	Groundwater
JRC	Joint Research Center of the European Commission
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SCG	Strategic Co-ordination Group
WD	Water Directors
WGs	Working Groups under the Common Implementation Strategy
WGL	Working Group Leader
WG A	Working Group on Ecological Status
WG C	Working Group on Groundwater
WG D	Working Group on Reporting
WG E	Working Group on Chemical Aspects
WG F	Working Group on Floods
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WISE	Water Information System for Europe



## Annex 1 - Overview of activities

*Table: Working Groups, Expert Groups and ad-hoc activities for the CIS 2010-2012*

	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	Ecological status (WG A)	JRC/DE/UK	Working Groups
2	Groundwater (WG C)	DG ENV/AT	
3	Reporting (WG D)	DG ENV/EEA/FR	
4	Chemical Aspects (WG E)	DG ENV/SE/FR/JRC/IT	
5	Floods (WG F)	DG ENV/IE	
6	Agriculture & Water	FR/UK	Expert Groups
7	Climate Change	DE/DG ENV	
8	Water scarcity and droughts	IT/ES/FR	
9	Biodiversity & Water*	DG ENV/ ?	Ad-hoc activities
10	Science Policy Interface	FR/DG RTD	
11	Hydromorphology	DE/UK/DG ENV	
12	Environmental Objectives and Exemptions	DG ENV/DK	
13	Economic issues	DG ENV	

\* After a workshop in Spring 2010 on Biodiversity & Water, it will be discussed whether an Expert Group will be established.

*For the Working Groups and Expert Groups, mandates are presented to the Water Directors for their meeting on 30 November 2009. Once these mandates are agreed, they will be attached to this work programme in Annex II.*

## **Annex 2 - Mandates of Working Groups and Expert Groups**

The following mandates are included in this Annex:

- Working Group A on Ecological Status
- Working Group C on Groundwater
- Working Group D on Reporting
- Working Group E on Priority Substances
- Working Group F on Floods
- Expert Group on Climate Change and Water
- Expert Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts
- Expert Group on WFD and Agriculture

## Mandate Working Group A ECOSTAT 2010-2012



### I. Introduction

The WG Ecological Status (ECOSTAT) has a central role in the coordination of the ongoing second round of the intercalibration exercise that is carried out according to the work programme that was endorsed by Water Directors at their meeting in Lisbon on 29-30 November 2007. The WG also addresses other issues related to harmonised monitoring and assessment of ecological quality of surface waters, as required by the WFD.

### II. Objectives

The main objectives for Working Group ECOSTAT are:

- 1) To set harmonised/ intercalibrated criteria for high and good ecological quality;
- 2) To promote development on harmonised and comparable ecological monitoring and assessment systems;
- 3) To compare approaches and promote exchange of experiences on development and application of monitoring and biological classification systems in the Member States;
- 4) To maintain links with other activities relevant to the ECOSTAT work programme, including the GES group of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive on the assessment of good status, the Expert Group on Climate Change and Water, the EEA Topic Centre on Water, and research projects.

### III. Tasks

#### 1. Intercalibration

A work programme for the second phase of the intercalibration exercise covering the period 2008-2012 is in place (endorsed by Water Directors at their meeting in Lisbon in November 2007). The intercalibration exercise is carried out following the new CIS guidance document 'Guidance for the intercalibration process 2008-2011', an updated version of CIS Guidance Document No. 14 "Guidance on the Intercalibration Process 2004-2006", published in 2005.

The tasks for this activity are the following:

- To coordinate and carry out the technical work of the WFD intercalibration exercise for the water categories, geographical regions and biological quality elements that are not included in the current Commission Decision
- To address more generic open issues including further harmonisation of approaches for setting reference conditions and the harmonisation of comparability criteria for national assessment methods. The results of this work will be included in specific Annexes of the 'Guidance for the Intercalibration Process 2008-2011'
- To review the intercalibration results of Phase 1 (2004-2007) and to exchange information on how to implement the intercalibration results in the national assessment systems

- To report the results of the intercalibration exercise to the SCG and the WFD Article 21 Committee.

## **2. Harmonisation/Standardization**

The main task of this activity is to provide recommendations to the Commission (DG ENV), the WFD Article 21 Committee, and the Strategic Coordination Group on:

- Biological monitoring methods (sampling) for which harmonisation is needed and where standardisation is possible; and
- Which standardised methods should be added to Annex V 1.3.6 of the Directive.

ECOSTAT will work in close cooperation with CEN to communicate common understanding of standardisation requirements. In addition, needs for laboratory intercomparison and training will be identified and such activities will be promoted. This activity will also evaluate the need for standardisation/harmonisation related to quality assurance, and discuss initiatives for pre-normative research for development of standard methods.

## **3. Ecological classification**

ECOSTAT will address pertinent issues related to ecological classification in a flexible way by organising targeted workshops and task groups. The focus will be on information exchange, not on the development of further guidance documents. The following tasks will be addressed:

- *Information exchange on the comparability of classification methods:* This activity will start off with an assessment of RBMPs in the spring of 2010 on the actual status plus additional qualitative information of the level of confidence for the BQEs, followed by a targeted workshop, where links could be made to existing approaches in chemical monitoring. The following topics will be addressed:
  - o Confidence, precision, and quality assurance in ecological classification
  - o Combination of classification results at quality element level to a single water body assessment
- *Information exchange on Heavily modified water bodies:* the following topics will be addressed, as identified following the HMWB workshop held 12-13 March 2009:
  - o Continue information exchange on biological assessment methods sensitive to hydromorphological alterations
  - o Information exchange on methods to assess minimum ecological flow
  - o Further information exchange on the comparison of methods for defining Good Ecological Potential
- *Information exchange on Alien species:* The following priority tasks have been identified:
  - o Continue ongoing activities to determine how to use alien species data in classifying ecological status; this will be linked to the invasive species strategy of the Commission and parallel activities in the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive

- Evaluate the potential of existing alien species databases for compiling lists that can be used under the WFD, focusing on species causing adverse ecological effects

#### 4. Links with other activities

- **GES group of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive on the assessment of good status** - The working group leaders of ECOSTAT and the MSFD working group on Good Environmental Status will follow the progress in both groups, identify overlaps and synergies, and report and discuss relevant issues
- **EG on Climate Change and Water** – the groups will exchange information on the consequences of climate change for the definition of reference conditions and ecological classification
- **EEA Topic Centres on Water** – ECOSTAT will be involved in further developing reporting on ecological status for the EEA State of the Environmental reports
- **Research projects** – ECOSTAT will maintain links with research projects relevant to ecological classification and intercalibration, including WISER and MIRAGE

#### IV. Deliverables

##### Task 1 – Intercalibration

- D1.1. Guidelines for deriving reference conditions and alternative benchmarks (Annex VI of the Guidance on the IC Process) (April 2010)
- D1.2. Criteria for assessing the comparability of the class boundaries of national assessment methods in the intercalibration exercise (Annex VII of the Guidance on the IC Process) (April 2010)
- D1.3. Regular progress reports of the Geographical Intercalibration Groups and other intercalibration groups (twice a year for each ECOSTAT meeting)
- D1.4. Final results of the intercalibration exercise (June 2011)
- D1.5. Intercalibration technical report (December 2011)

##### Task 2 – Harmonisation/Standardisation

- D2.1. Report on the progress in developing the mandated biological standard methods (2010/11)
- D2.2. Identification of biological monitoring methods for which harmonisation is needed and where standardisation is possible (2010/ 11)
- D2.3. Proposal with methods for amendment of Annex V 1.3.6 of the Directive (2011)

##### Task 3 – Ecological Classification

*Comparability of classification methods*

- D3.1. Overview of MS approaches to ecological classification based on the RBMPs (June 2010)
- D3.2. Regular updates of the information exchange on the comparability of classification methods (twice a year at each ECOSTAT meeting), including information on
- levels and ranges of physico-chemical and hydromorphological conditions used in MS as supporting elements for the assessment of ecological status, including EQS values
  - comparability of methods for assessing confidence and precision of ecological status
  - combination of classification results at quality element level to a single water body assessment

*Heavily modified water bodies/hydromorphological alterations*

- D3.3 Regular updates of the information exchange on heavily modified water bodies and methodology for defining GEP (twice a year at each ECOSTAT meeting)
- D3.4 Summary report of information exchange on evaluation of the sensitivity of biological assessment methods to hydromorphological alterations (autumn 2011 – timing tbc)
- D3.5 Summary report of information exchange on methods used for assessing minimum ecological flow (autumn 2011 – timing tbc)

*Alien species*

- D3.6 Report evaluating the sensitivity of existing methods for ecological status assessment to pressures by alien species (autumn 2010)
- D3.7 Report of a workshop evaluating options to collate national and regional alien species lists into a pan-European record for use under the WFD (spring 2011)

**Task 4 – Links with other activities**

- D4.1 Updates on information exchange with the MSFD WG on good environmental status

**VI. Timetable**

Time	2010				2011				2012			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
1 – Intercalibration												
2 – Harmonisation/Standardisation												
3 – Ecological Classification												
4 – Links with other activities												

<b>Time</b>	<b>2010</b>			<b>2011</b>			<b>2012</b>		
<b>Deliverables</b>									
D1.1 – RC guidelines									
D1.2 – IC Comparability criteria									
D1.3 – regular IC progress reports									
D1.4 – Final results of IC exercise									
D1.5 – IC technical report									
D2.1 – Progress report on standardisation									
D2.2 – Identification of harmonisation/standardisation needs									
D2.3 – Proposal for methods for Annex V 1.3.6									
D3.1 – Overview of MS approaches to classification based on RBMPs									
D3.2 – Updates on information exchange on ecological classification									
D3.3 – Updates on information exchange on HMWB									
D3.4 – Summary report on sensitivity of biological methods to hymo alterations									
D3.5. – Summary report on assessment of minimum ecological									

<b>Time</b>	<b>2010</b>				<b>2011</b>				<b>2012</b>			
flow												
D3.6 – Report on the sensitivity of existing methods to pressures by alien species												
D3.7 – Report on options for pan-European alien species lists												
D4.1 – Updates on links with the MSFD GES working group												



## VII. Structure and organisation

The working group will be co-lead by JRC, UK, and Germany.

Task 1 (intercalibration) is coordinated by JRC. The technical work is carried out by the Geographical Intercalibration Groups and subgroups as specified in the Guidance for the Intercalibration Process. Groups have been established for all biological quality elements in each of the GIGs. The successful completion of this task requires active involvement of all Member States in the groups relevant to them, and the timely delivery of data and other information where needed.

Task 2 (harmonisation/standardisation) is coordinated by JRC. The technical work is carried out in a subgroup within the ECOSTAT group.

Task 3 (ecological classification) is coordinated by UK and Germany. The work is focusing on information exchange. Targeted workshops will be organised where appropriate. Workshop outlines will be presented to the SCG in advance for approval<sup>4</sup>. The main deliverables will be the reports of these workshops. The subtask on alien species is dealt with in a subgroup within ECOSTAT and coordinated by JRC.

Task 4 (links with other activities) is coordinated by JRC.

## VIII. Lead countries/organisations

Name	Organisation/Member State	E-mail
Wouter van de Bund	JRC	<a href="mailto:Wouter.van-de-bund@jrc.ec.europa.eu">Wouter.van-de-bund@jrc.ec.europa.eu</a>
Peter Pollard	SEPA, UK	<a href="mailto:Peter.Pollard@sepa.org.uk">Peter.Pollard@sepa.org.uk</a>
Ulrich Claussen	UBA, DE	<a href="mailto:ulrich.claussen@uba.de">ulrich.claussen@uba.de</a>

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<sup>4</sup> Workshop invitations will be sent to all ECOSTAT and SCG members to ensure participation of any interested stakeholders not represented in ECOSTAT.

## Mandate Working Group C Groundwater 2010–2012



### I. Introduction

In the Brno meeting in May 2009, the Water Directors have agreed about the continuation of the CIS Working Group Groundwater (WG C) for the period 2010–2012 despite the simplification of the CIS-procedure. There was also a demand of the WD's for simplifying the working procedures of WGs and it is fully respected in this mandate as well.

Within this mandate it will be outlined in which way MSs shall be supported by WG C output in the very complex field of implementing the legal requirements concerning groundwater issues in both the WFD and GWD. WG C will also contribute to the 2013 GWD review.

The working area is focusing on two tasks and to allow for certain flexibility, contributions to horizontal tasks will be executed on an ad hoc basis.

The main orientations of the mandate of WG C for 2010–2012, as outlined below, are based on the outcome of the Water Directors meeting (28/29<sup>th</sup> May 2009) concerning the mandate for WG C, on the discussions already held at the WG C plenary meeting in Prague (28<sup>th</sup> April 2009) and on the discussions of the SCG (7/8<sup>th</sup> May 2009).

The discussion for further developing the mandate continued through an e-mail consultation of all WG C members. A final draft was approved by the WG C at the plenary meeting in Sweden (15<sup>th</sup> October 2009).

### II. Objectives

The main aims and objectives of WG C are

- the exchange of information and lessons learnt during the current first phase of the implementation of the WFD and the new Groundwater Directive (GWD, 2006/118/EC) in order to aim at a well harmonized implementation of WFD and GWD in the next (2<sup>nd</sup>) RBMPs including a critical review of experiences with guidance documents in place;
- to contribute to and support the revision of the new GWD which will be carried out by the Commission until early 2013;
- to contribute to horizontal issues (e.g. climate change), which will be dealt with on an ad-hoc basis (e.g. single workshops) and need a previous approval by the Water Directors and discussions with other WGs where needed.

### III. Tasks

The tasks of WG C for the period 2010–2012 are separated into two permanent tasks and complemented by ad-hoc tasks

The following tasks shall be covered as permanent tasks:

- Exchange of best practices related to the implementation of groundwater issues of the WFD and GWD;

- Contribution to the review of the GWD in 2013;

Ad-hoc tasks shall cover:

- Contributions to horizontal issues – e.g. Climate change effects on groundwater; expected pressures and impacts and its consideration in RBMPs; input to SSG on Climate Change and Water.

## **1. Task WGC-1 – Implementation of the WFD and GWD – best practice**

Task leader: AT      Co-Leader: EC

The GWD was adopted on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006. During the period 2007–2009 WG C put main emphasis on the elaboration of guidance documents supporting the implementation of the WFD and especially of the GWD. Within the mandate period of 2010–2012 task WGC-1 will focus on exchanges of best practices and recommendations based on the experiences gained by the Member States and the Commission within the development of the 1<sup>st</sup> RBMPs according to the WFD and GWD in order to support the preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMPs. The task will cover, in particular, exchange of information and development of best practice on:

- The establishment of GW threshold values
- The compliance regime for groundwater chemical and quantitative status assessment– in particular:
  - Drinking water protected areas (DWPA)
  - GW-dependant aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems
  - Saline and other intrusions.
- Lessons learnt from the first RBMP cycle and its guidance documents
- Hazardous substances and the implementation of Art. 6 of the GWD
- Risk management and programme of measures (assisting to make PoMs operational)
- Preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMPs
- Lessons learnt from reporting process for the 1<sup>st</sup> RBMP

## **2. Task WGC-2 – Contribution to the review of the GWD in 2013:**

Task leader: UK      Co-Leader: FR, EC

According to Article 10 of the GWD, a review of Annexes I and II of the GWD will be carried out by the Commission before the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013, and thereafter every 6 years. WG C will provide support and input into this review, based on the experiences of Member States and based on the outcome of research activities. The findings of WG C shall be supportive and without prejudice for the formal procedure according to the Art. 21 Committee.

As in the past, there will be a close link between WG C and policy oriented research – this link will in particular be established with the FP 7 research project GENESIS<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> The objective of GENESIS is to integrate pre-existing and new scientific knowledge into new methods, concepts and tools for the revision of the Groundwater Directive and better management of groundwater resources. [<http://www.thegenesisproject.eu>]

which is supposed to provide - among others - the supporting scientific basis for the review of the GWD.

The GENESIS consortium will regularly report on its activities to WG C. In particular, by the end of 2011 recommendations from GENESIS concerning the review of Annexes I and II are expected. The results shall be presented to WG C and discussed at WG C meetings and/or within a workshop.

Referring to the above mentioned science-policy link, WG C will thoroughly take note of, analyse and discuss the outcome of further research projects, in particular with regard to conceptual models and GW dependant aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

### 3. Ad hoc tasks/workshops on horizontal issues (e.g. Climate Change and its effects on Groundwater)

Task leader(s): For each identified ad hoc task, a volunteer task leader will be nominated.

Ad hoc tasks/workshops shall be performed according to upcoming needs during the mandate period. The outline of these tasks will be presented to the SCG and Water Directors in advance of the decision of starting the task.

## IV. Deliverables

### 1. Task WGC-1 – Implementation of the WFD and GWD – best practice

This task will identify and summarise the major lessons learnt by the Member States, competent authorities and stakeholders within the elaboration of the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of RBM and which are of major relevance contributing to a harmonised preparation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMPs. It is the aim to support Member States concerning the revision and adaptation of the new programmes of measures. A particular focus will be given to discuss the assessment (forecast) of the effectiveness and efficiency of measures and how to monitor effects.

### 2. Task WGC-2 – Contribution to the review of the GWD in 2013

This task will elaborate and summarise recommendation(s) to COM concerning the review of GWD Annex I and II according to GWD Article 10. This is based on the one hand, on the results from the research project GENESIS and on the other hand on the broad experiences from the implementation activities of the 1<sup>st</sup> RBMP with regard to substances to be considered as relevant for chemical status assessment.

The deliverables will form reports and will be made available via EC internet tools.

## V. Links with other CIS activities

## VI. Timetable

Time	2010				2011				2012			
Tasks	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task WGC-1 – Implementation of												

the WFD and GWD – best practice													
Task WGC-2 – Contribution to the review of the GWD in 2013													
<b>Deliverables</b>													
WGC-1 Technical report “Exchange of best practice”													
WGC-1 report													
WGC-2 workshop													
WGC-2 report													

## VII. Structure and organisation

WG C will conduct permanent and limited ad-hoc (e.g. workshop) tasks. Permanent tasks are defined by this mandate and continue through the whole time span of the mandate, ad-hoc tasks can be defined before or during the mandate period, need approval in advance by the Water Directors, and are preferably carried out as workshops. They can either be held instead of or back-to-back with plenary meetings.

The permanent tasks will be led and first drafts for discussion will be prepared by Member States or Stakeholder Organisations. For each task a work programme needs to be developed by the task leader(s) and documented in a task sheet. The preparatory work (drafting or exchanging good practices) will be undertaken by the task leader(s) together with a drafting network of volunteers if needed.

For ad-hoc tasks it is planned that the task leaders in charge of the preparatory work will be identified in every case.

It is foreseen that the elaborated documents are the basis for in-depth discussions at the WG C meeting/workshop. If there is a need for establishing a drafting group, this should previously be approved by WDs.

The outcome of discussions will be summarized by the task leaders.

The work will be carried out in the form of coordinated exchanges of e-mails and if necessary, in technical meetings under the leadership of the task leader(s). Update on the progress of the various activities will be reported to the WG C plenary.

The objectives of the tasks have to be achieved by collecting targeted data and information, avoiding duplication with existing guidance documents and ensuring an efficient use of available data and information. Duplications with other WG activities should also be avoided.

In order to limit travelling and to enhance interactions among the WG C participants, the plenary meetings will be held twice a year and organised under the EU Presidency umbrella. This means that WG C plenary meetings will be organised in the countries holding the EU Presidency, namely in Spain & Belgium (2010), Hungary & Poland (2011) and Denmark & Cyprus (2012).

**VIII. Lead countries/organisations**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation/Member State</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
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# Mandate Working Group D on Reporting



## I. Introduction

Since 2003, Working Group D has shaped a new agenda for reporting under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) via the Water Information System for Europe (WISE). From a difficult starting point and with many (in particular time) constraints in the development of the reporting requirements related to WFD Article 3 and 5, WG D has managed to develop reporting requirements well in advance of the reporting deadlines and by using modern and effective tools under WISE. In particular the reporting exercise for Article 8 (monitoring programmes) has been a huge success in the aim to streamline and facilitate reporting. The most significant work item, the reporting for the river basin management plans in 2010 has now been completed and the development of the electronic tools for reporting is significantly advanced.

In addition to the core tasks, WG D has discussed the compliance checking approach and the results of the Commission's first implementation report, been consulted on a coherent system on the reporting of the state-of-the-environment carried out by the EEA and continued discussions on technical aspects of reporting, in particular related to GIS aspects.

Looking to the future, WG D is increasingly becoming a forum in which reporting aspects under water legislation other than the WFD are being coordinated in order to move step-by-step towards a coherent reporting approach under WISE. Therefore the reporting under the other water directives<sup>6</sup>, as well as upcoming new water and water-related policies (as floods, marine protection, groundwater, Natura 2000 etc), according to the WISE Implementation Plan, is planned to be streamlined and organised within the framework of WISE and the overall simplification of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) process. Working Group D will cover the coordination activities on reporting related to the existing directives and new EU water legislation, ensuring coherence and identifying potential for further streamlining. The contents of the reporting under other Directives than the WFD will not be covered by the WGD but by the respective working groups.

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

## II. Objectives

The overall objective of Working Group D will be to support reporting and WISE development and to ensure that reporting process is simple, avoids duplication and does not lead to an unnecessary burden for MS. More specific objectives for the group will be to:

- Monitor the progress of 2010 RBMP reporting, develop reporting sheets for WFD 2013 reporting and update and improve the reporting tools;
- Provide a forum of the exchange of views on RBMP compliance checking and the development of compliance indicators;
- Co-ordinate, streamline and improve conceptual consistency between the WFD reporting and reporting streams from other Directives as well as with SOE reporting (including statistical, information) towards e.g. EEA and Eurostat.

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<sup>6</sup> as urban waste water (91/271/EEC), bathing water (2006/7/EC, 76/160/EEC), drinking water (98/83/EC) and nitrates directive (91/676/EEC)

- Oversee and contribute to the development of WISE (both technical developments and the incorporation of other reporting streams); ensure and improve consistency in format
- Together with the Eionet group, provide review and clarifications on the SOE part of WFD Art.18 §2b report, as an assessment using the established voluntary SOE-reporting streams.

### III. Tasks

The following tasks will be undertaken by the Working Group:

#### 1. WFD Reporting

##### a. Monitor the 2010 RBMP reporting process

The Working Group will monitor progress of 2010 RBMP reporting and identify and discuss any areas for future improvement. This task will be ongoing throughout 2010 and will result in a document reviewing the process to be agreed during 2011.

##### b. Develop reporting sheets and tools for WFD 2013 reporting

Article 15(3) of the WFD requires Member States to submit an interim report describing progress in the implementation of the planned programme of measures within 3 years of the publication of each river basin management plan or update under Article 13. The Working Group will develop reporting sheets for the 2013 reporting and oversee the development of the appropriate reporting tools. The reporting sheets will be developed and agreed during 2010 and the tools developed in 2011.

##### c. Update and improve Article 8 schemas

The Article 3 and 5 schemas were updated and reviewed in light of the development of the RBMP schemas and experience of reporting. The Article 8 schemas have been used in the reporting in 2007 and will be used as well in 2010. Since the 2007 reporting, areas for improvement and simplification of these schemas have been identified. A review will take place after 2010 reporting which will result in recommendations for simplification of article 8 schemas.

#### 2. Exchange views on RBMP compliance checking including the development of compliance indicators

The Commission will consult the working group on the concept paper for compliance checking and will seek views on the compliance indicators that it proposes to use. The Commission will also provide regular feedback to the Working Group on progress with compliance checking. The Compliance Checking concept will be developed in 2009 with detailed indicators being developed in the first quarter of 2010. Compliance checking is expected to begin in April 2010 once the Member States have reported through WISE by the deadline of 22 March 2010.

#### 3. Co-ordinate and streamline WFD with other reporting streams from other directives and with SoE and other reporting streams reporting of statistical data with regard to contents and deadlines

The Working Group will continue to take an overview of the development of reporting requirements for other directives, for SoE and other reporting streams in order to ensure that the requirements are streamlined and the principle of "report once use many" continues to be observed. WG D will also continue to work with Eurostat to identify where this principle can be extended to statistical data and/or relevant data on water statistics.



#### 4. Participate, collaborate and contribute to WISE Development

The institutions responsible for WISE (DG Environment, EEA, Eurostat and JRC) will seek feedback and guidance from the Working Group on the main orientations for the development of the system. Work on WISE Development is technically driven by the WISE Technical Group (WISE TG), led by the EEA. Experts from Member States actively participate in the WISE TG contributing with their expertise and experience to the technical development of WISE. The progress on technical developments will be regularly discussed at the Working Group D meetings. The main areas of work of the WISE TG in the coming years will be:

- Development of WISE as a distributed system following the INSPIRE principles and rules
- Technical issues relating to data input, visualisation and functionality;
- The technicalities of data exchange;
- The architecture of the system and the data model;
- The further development of appropriate geographic reference data sets;
- Links to INSPIRE/SEIS; and
- The technical issues relating to the incorporation of other data streams.

#### 5. State of the Environment reporting.

- Working Group D will further help to improve consistency between WFD and SoE reporting streams under WISE.
- The established voluntary SOE reporting streams will be brought into assessments in this mandate period and the WG D should provide together with the Eionet experts review and clarification on the SOE assessments developed. The assessments will contribute to the SOE part of the 2012 report under WFD Art. 18.
- No further expansion or revision of SOE reporting sheets is foreseen, unless changes are seen necessary as a result of SOE assessments developed.

### **IV. Deliverables and expected outcomes**

The following deliverables and contributions will be provided by Working Group D and its sub-groups:

1. WFD 2013 reporting
  - a. Reporting Sheets
  - b. Schemas and documentation
2. Contribution to the development of
  - a. Concept for RBMP compliance checking
  - b. RBMP compliance indicators
  - c. SOE assessment for 2012 report
  - d. WISE Implementation Plan
3. WISE GIS/IT workshop reports/minutes/summaries/conclusions

Once deliverables have been prepared they will be approved by the Working Group. SCG and Water Director approval will be sought where necessary. All outputs will be made available via Circa.

In addition, for some outputs, particularly those connected with WISE, additional workshops will be held to disseminate the outputs and seek the views of those more directly involved in the IT elements of the WFD and other water-related Directives in the Member States.

## V. Links with other reporting activities/streams

Working Group D has links with the following other CIS activities:

- Working Group on Floods;
- Working Group on Priority Substances;
- Working Group on Groundwater;
- Reporting Groups/For a for other EU water directives' reporting in WISE (bathing, urban wastewater, nitrates, drinking) and is expected to link to the working group on reporting for the Marine Strategy Directive.

In addition the Working Group will need to maintain links to other Commission initiatives such as Inspire/SEIS and ePRTR as well as linking WISE with Natura 2000 sites. It will draw on the expertise of the other CIS Working Groups for advice on the development of reporting sheets where specific technical knowledge is required.

## VI. Timetable

Time	2010				2011				2012			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Discuss the WFD 2010 reporting process												
Develop reporting sheets and participate in testing tools for WFD 2013 reporting												
Participate in discussion on Updating and improving Article 8 schemas												
Exchange views on RBMP compliance checking including the development of compliance indicators												
Co-ordinate and streamline with other reporting streams including SoE												
Discuss WISE Development												
Discussion on State of the Environment assessments												
<b>Deliverables/Outcomes</b>												
Assessment of the 2010 reporting process												
Reporting sheets for 2013												
Tools for 2013 reporting												
Review of Article 8 Schemas												

## VII. Organisation

- WG D meets twice per year.
- WISE GIS/IT workshops – once per year. Nominations of participants will be done per workshop depending on the agenda. An outline of the workshop will be presented to the SCG for approval before invitation.
- WG D provides feedback and guidance for the development of WISE .
- In WISE TG some experts from member states are taking part.
- WG D reports to SCG and further to Water Directors.

- WG D has links to EEA Eionet National Reference Centres on Freshwaters (NRCs) via workshops on SoE reporting on certain thematic areas (diffuse pollution, water quantity, etc)

### VIII. Lead countries/organisations

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# Mandate Working Group E on Chemical Aspects



## I. Introduction

The Working Group E on Priority Substances has been operational since 2007. The group was built from the existing Expert Advisory Forum that was established in 2001. The activities of the Working Group on support to policy development and implementation of article 16 of the WFD have been complemented by an activity on Chemical Monitoring that has developed guidance on sampling, monitoring and analysis of chemicals, including quality assurance and quality control issues.

Since the adoption of the last mandate of the WG E a number of important developments have taken place. First, Directive 2008/105/EC (EQSD) has been adopted. This will certainly increase the amount of work related to implementation (e.g. development of guidance, exchange of information). Second, the work on the review of the list of priority substances has gained momentum, pushed by article 8 of EQSD that establishes January 2011 as the deadline for the next Commission proposal on this matter. Finally, Directive 2009/90/EC has been adopted, establishing minimum performance criteria for chemical monitoring under WFD.

In addition, a number of challenges have emerged at this stage of the implementation of the WFD and EQSD that should be addressed by the WG E in the next period 2010-2012. Although part of ecological status, specific pollutants are of crucial importance to achieve good status of surface water bodies. On the other hand, emerging pollutants should also be the focus of attention, from different perspectives (analytical methods, levels on the environment, hazard information, use patterns).

In view of simplification of the structure and streamlining of the activities developed under CIS umbrella, the existing Working Group E on Priority Substances and Chemical Monitoring Activity Group on surface waters and groundwater will be merged into a single group called **Working Group E on Chemical Aspects (WG E)**.

## II. Objectives

The activities developed by the WG E will focus mainly on the following aspects:

1. to support policy developments related to Article 16 of the WFD;
2. to support the implementation of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive and the chemical pollution aspects of WFD, providing guidance and promoting exchange of information and best practices; this activity will include the exchange of information on setting quality standards for specific pollutants.
3. to promote the exchange of information and best practices between Member States, stakeholders and research community in relation to surface waters and groundwater as regards:
  - chemical monitoring, standardization and quality assurance issues, including implementation of Commission Directive 2009/90/EC on technical specifications for chemical analysis and monitoring of water status (QA/QC Directive)
  - emerging pollutants, including analytical methods, hazard information, levels on the environment and use patterns

### III. Tasks

**Task 1:** Support and contribute to the **work in relation to article 16 of the WFD**, including data collection, prioritisation of substances, identification of potential priority hazardous substances, setting of EQS and identification of potential control measures. The work includes provision of monitoring and hazard data of potential priority substances, methodological guidance for prioritisation and information about control measures.

*Lead of task 1: Commission (DG ENV)*

#### **Sub-group on Review**

The Sub-group on Review (SG-R) is chaired by JRC and the United Kingdom and will be assisted by the Commission.

SG-R is mandated to support the finalisation of the modelling-based prioritisation, to propose, based on their expertise and all available evidence and information, the candidate substances to be included on the priority substances list and to propose EQS for those in water, sediment and/or biota as appropriate. It is envisaged that Commission's consultants will continuously assist SG-R.

The Commission will also request advice from the Sub-group on the revision of certain EQS or to develop EQS for sediment and/or biota for existing priority substances.

The outcome of the work by the SG-R will be forwarded to the WG E.

The activity of SG-R is planned until the Commission Proposal is finalised (expected by the end of 2010).

As regards the work on control measures for existing and proposed priority substances, the Commission will propose the WG E the modalities for such work at a later stage and will seek endorsement of the SCG, if needed.

#### **Task 2:** Support on the **implementation of the EQSD and chemical pollution aspects of the WFD**

*Lead task 2: Commission (DG ENV), France*

This task comprises the following subtasks:

1. Preparation of the **guidelines on Mixing zones** identification as required by the Article 4 of the EQSD  
*Sub-group: Drafting Group on Mixing Zones*

The mandate of existing Drafting Group on Mixing Zones was agreed by the WDs' in November 2008. This sub-group is chaired by the United Kingdom and co-chaired by the Netherlands and the Commission. The activity of the Drafting Group will be finalised in early 2010. The final Technical Guidance Document (TGD) will be delivered for endorsement by WD at the meeting in Spain in May 2010.

2. **Activity on emissions** (point IV.4 and 5)  
*Sub-group: Drafting Group on Emissions*

The current mandate of existing Drafting Group on Emissions was agreed by the WDs' in November 2008. This sub-group is chaired by the Netherlands and co-chaired by France and the Commission. The existing

Drafting Group will finish its activity in the first half of 2010. The final technical document will be delivered for endorsement by WD at November 2010 meeting.

As a follow-up of the activity on emissions, a drafting group will work on the preparation of the guidelines on the inventory of emissions, discharges and losses as required by Article 5 of the EQSD. A detailed mandate will be prepared and submitted to the SCG taking into account the outcomes of the current activity on emissions.

### **3. Exchange of information on setting quality standards for specific pollutants.**

An informal exchange of information on setting quality standards for specific pollutants will be established, building on existing initiatives. The objective is to share information and best practices, avoid double work and ultimately promote harmonisation of standards across the EU. A special folder will be created in CIRCA to facilitate the exchange of information between Member States. The idea of organising a workshop in 2011 will be further investigated. If this is decided a proposal for a workshop will be prepared and sent to the SCG and WD for endorsement.

## **Task 3: Chemical monitoring and emerging pollutants**

*Lead task 3: JRC and IT*

### ***Sub-Group on Chemical monitoring and emerging pollutants (SG-CMEP)***

The objective of this task is to **promote exchange of information and best practices** between Member States, stakeholders and research community in relation to surface waters and groundwater as regards:

1. chemical monitoring, standardization and quality assurance issues, including implementation of Commission Directive 2009/90/EC on technical specifications for chemical analysis and monitoring of water status (QA/QC Directive). This will involve aspects such as:

- finalisation of the guidance on chemical monitoring of sediment and biota;

*Sub-group: CMA-1 on Monitoring Best Practices*

The mandate of existing CMA-1 is to complete the work on the sediment and biota chemical monitoring guidance. This is a continuation of the mandate of CMA-1 as agreed by the WDs' in November 2006. This sub-group is chaired by the Italy. The activity of the CMA-1 will be finalised in early 2010 and the final version of document will be delivered for endorsement by WD at the meeting in Spain in May 2010.

- accompany the respective pre-normative and co-normative research in view of resulting standardization needs for newly identified Priority Substances;
- trigger cutting-edge research for new analytical and alternative detection methods with the scope to increase efficiency and to decrease costs of chemical monitoring;
- elaboration of case studies between Member States on compliance checking, including statistical methods for assessing compliance

(Annex I.B, 2<sup>nd</sup> point of the EQSD). Eventually, in a second step after the exchange of information, this may lead to a proposal to develop guidance on the statistical methods for assessing compliance according to Annex I.B, 2<sup>nd</sup> point of the EQSD. If this is the case the SCG and Water Directors will be asked to endorse the development of such guidance.

- exchange of case studies between Member States on the implementation of QA/QC Directive. Eventually, in a second step after the exchange of information, this may lead to a proposal to develop guidance on implementation of QA/QC Directive. If this is the case the SCG and Water Directors will be asked to endorse the development of such guidance.
  - promote state-of-the-art monitoring measures to improve comparability of approaches and results;
  - promote consensus and innovation as well as develop guidance about best-monitoring practices and equivalences of methodology among the MS by:
    - definition of best-practices and guidance for monitoring methodology, including result on metrological traceability, and measurement uncertainty assessment;
    - organisation of regular collaborative comparisons for testing with Member States Laboratories and testing of guidelines established by the SG-CMEP and WG E;
    - help MS meeting the requirements stemming from the QA/QC Directive including the implementation of the organization of laboratory intercomparisons, provision of reference materials and other tools of quality control as described in the EAQC-WISE Blueprint, on the basis of the main standards (ISO/IEC FDIS 17043, ISO 13528:2005) and guidelines (ISO-REMCO Guides, EURACHEM and other international guidelines);
    - support for e.g. European Accreditation (EA) on harmonization of accreditations of Member States laboratories.
  - exchange of best practices to support MS in selecting methodologies for identification of river basin specific pollutants;
2. Emerging pollutants, including analytical methods and alternative approaches, hazard information, levels on the environment and use patterns. The NORMAN network will be closely associated to this activity, as well as other relevant research initiatives on emerging pollutants. The activity will provide:
- quickly reliable and EU-wide information about levels and occurrences of emerging environmental pollutants which eventually can support the identification of new priority substances.
  - information on performance of existing analytical methods for emerging pollutants and any other information deemed relevant for the activities of the WGE on this field.
  - Information exchange on the use of alternative effect-based monitoring methods (e.g. biomarker, bioassays, TIE) needed for investigative monitoring and to better evaluate the link between chemical and ecological status and the effects of mixture of pollutants and emerging pollutants

Available evidence (ex-CMA on-site trials, analysis of quality of priority substances database) shows the need to achieve comparability of compliance checking of chemical status also in the presence of measurement uncertainty. This could be best achieved by establishing a **Community Laboratory Centre** that would act as a coordination body between the various laboratories in Member States and the Commission. A strong partnership with stakeholders in Competent Authorities, Research Centres, Standardisation Bodies, Accreditation Bodies as well as Existing Scientific Networks would also be necessary. The JRC could coordinate these activities. In any case, the establishment of the Community Laboratory Centre would not involve the creation of new institution or body, but the coordination of existing ones.

#### IV. Deliverables

The number preceding the following deliverables makes reference to the tasks mentioned above.

1. Reports on review of the priority substances list and corresponding EQSs
  - 2.1. Technical guidance document on Mixing zones identification
  - 2.2a. Technical report on the identification of priority substances that are not sufficiently addressed by existing measures and that significantly contribute to water bodies not reaching good status, and to identify potential measures to tackle those sources at national and/or EU level. The report will include also a point on effectiveness of measures and feasibility.
  - 2.2b. Technical report with potential measures to be taken at the national and EU level to contribute to the cessation or phasing out of discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances.
  - 2.2c. Technical guidance document on the establishment of the inventory of emissions, discharges and losses (detailed mandate to be developed and agreed in 2010)
- 3.1a. Case studies on compliance checking, including statistical methods
- 3.1b. Case studies on implementation of QA/QC Directive
- 3.1c. Technical guidance document on chemical monitoring of sediment and biota
- 3.1d. Report on the results of regular collaborative comparisons for testing with Member States Laboratories and of testing of the guidelines established by SG-CMEP and WG E
- 3.1e. Status report on the availability of laboratory intercomparisons, of reference materials and other tools of quality control
- 3.1f. Report on progress of execution of Mandate M 424 on standardization for existing priority substances (PS) and new standardization needs for new priority substances.
- 3.2a. Summary reports on research dedicated to the investigation of emerging pollutants on a European or river-basin specific level
- 3.2b. Summary reports on EU-wide information about levels and occurrences of emerging pollutants
- 3.2c. Technical reports on the use of alternative effect-based (biomarker, bioassays) monitoring tools



## V. Links with other activities

Working Group E will co-ordinate the activity of their sub-groups and will be in close co-operation with NORMAN Network and WG D on Reporting and WISE. Also, it will interact with the groups of experts working for international river conventions (Danube, Rhine) and international marine conventions (OSPAR, Helsinki, Barcelona). Close links will be established with on-going RTD projects on the field of chemical pollution, in particular those funded by DG Research.

Working Group E will be continuously informed about the state of play of relevant policy areas such as REACH, IPPC Directive, Pesticide Directive and Biocide Directive.

## VI. Timetable

Time	2010				2011				2012			
<u>Tasks</u>	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Task 1. Support to policy development related to WFD Article 16												
Task 2. Support the implementation of the Environmental Quality Standards Directive and the chemical pollution aspects of WFD												
Task 3. Chemical monitoring and emerging pollutants												
<u>Deliverables</u>												
<b>TASK 1</b>												
1. Reports on review of the priority substances list and corresponding EQSs		X										
<b>TASK 2</b>												
2.1. TGD on Mixing zones identification		X										
2.2a. Technical report on priority substances that are not sufficiently addressed by existing measures and on the identification of potential measures				X								
2.2b. Technical report with potential measures to be taken for cessation or phasing out of				X								

Time <u>Tasks</u>	2010				2011				2012			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
discharges, emissions and losses of priority hazardous substances												
2.2c. TGD on inventory of emissions, discharges and losses								X				
<b>TASK 3</b>												
3.1a. Technical guidance document on chemical monitoring of sediment and biota		X										
3.1b. Case studies on statistical methods for assessing compliance				X								
3.1c. Case studies on implementation of QA/QC Directive												
3.1d. Report on the collaborative comparisons for testing with MS Laboratories (Ex-CMA Onsite)				X								
3.1e. Status report on the availability of laboratory intercomparisons, of reference materials and other tools of quality control				X							X	
3.1f. Report on progress of execution of Mandate M 424 on standardisation for existing PS and new standardization needs for new priority substances.			X									
3.2a. Summary reports on research dedicated to the investigation of emerging pollutants on a European or river-basin specific level								X				
3.2b. Summary reports on EU-wide information about levels and occurrences of emerging pollutants							X					
3.2c. Technical reports on the use of alternative effect-based (biomarker, bioassays) monitoring tools												X

## VII. Structure and organisation

Usually two meetings per year are foreseen for WG E. Given the high workload in 2010 at least three meetings will be needed.

The WG E shall be the central steering group for work under Article 16 of the WFD and Article 7 and 8 of the EQSD. It shall be supported by Sub-Groups or Drafting Groups mentioned in section III. These sub-groups will meet in the frame of workshops or *ad hoc* meetings contributing to the preparation technical report and/or

future guidelines, sharing experiences and discussing/agreeing on specific issues. WG E shall also be supported by consultants of the Commission or through other supporting structures.

#### **VIII. Lead countries/organisations**

- **Overall co-lead WGE:** DG ENV, FR, SE
- **Task 1 lead:** DG ENV
  - Lead SG-R: JRC, UK (finishes end 2010)
- **Task 2 lead:** DG ENV, FR
  - Lead DG-Mixing zones: UK, NL, DG ENV (finishes mid 2010)
  - Lead DG-Emissions: NL, FR, DG ENV (finishes end 2011)
- **Task 3 lead:** JRC, IT
  - Lead SG-CMEP: JRC, IT
  - Lead CMA-1: IT (finishes mid 2010)

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## Mandate Working Group F “Floods”



### I. Introduction

Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks (the Floods Directive) shall be implemented according to a three stage implementation process, with Flood Risk Management Plans to be established by 2015 in coordination with Directive 2000/60/EC (the Water Framework Directive), as will following implementation cycles. In the 1<sup>st</sup> phase of the implementation cycle the need to exchange information between member States, with the Commission and with other EU institutions, groups, projects or international bodies working on relevant topics has been strongly expressed.

### II. Objectives

The purpose of WG F is to provide a forum for support for the implementation of the Floods Directive, for information exchange between Member States and stakeholders on good practices with a view to reaching a common understanding on the requirements for the implementation of the Floods Directive, and for linking with other related activities in the CIS and at EU level for support of the implementation.

The objectives of the work programme for this period are to develop reporting formats for the different stages, as well as to provide a platform for information exchange between Member States and with other actors (including WFD groups) on themes relevant to the implementation of the Floods Directive.

Themes relevant to the purpose and objectives of WG F include, but are not limited to, those listed in Annex I.

### III. Tasks

- i. Twice annual meetings will be held of WG F, to provide a platform for information exchange and for discussion on key implementation issues.
- ii. A maximum of 2-3 Thematic Workshops to take place each year on themes related to the implementation of the Floods Directive, based on themes and workshop outlines approved by WG F members. This mandate provides the framework for these Thematic workshops, whilst the specific Themes and dates are to be agreed in workshop outlines. SCG and WD will be informed of the upcoming events, and will receive the outcome of each workshop.

The Workshops foreseen in 2010 are on :

- Flood Risk Management Plans, 26-28.1.2010, Maastricht, NL

- Flash floods and pluvial flooding, 26-28 May 2010, Cagliari, Italy.
- Economic assessments, vulnerability assessment and Floods Directive implementation, Ghent, Belgium, 25-26 October 2010.

Themes, dates and workshop outlines for 2011 and 2012 are to be proposed by WG F, and approved by the SCG. Potential themes are indicated in the annex. Key outcomes of the workshops are to be presented to the SCG and Water Directors. The outline shall include the type of output is expected from the workshop and if such an outcome requires SCG endorsement.

iii. Development of reporting formats for the Floods Directive, in line with reporting through WISE and with existing provisions under INSPIRE and future provisions under SEIS, for approval by the Strategic Coordination Group and the Water Directors.

iv. Development of reports, handbooks, informal discussion papers, guides, or other documents on an adhoc basis. Depending on if final endorsement by Water Directors is sought, (eg. guidance document, best practice document) specific mandates need to be approved by SCG, and Water Directors.

#### IV. Deliverables

- A. Meeting reports of WG F, as well as discussion documents.
- B. Reporting formats for the different stages of implementation of the Directive
- C. Reports of Thematic workshops on chosen themes.
- D. Ad-hoc documents on themes relevant to the implementation of the Floods Directive.. **Specific deliverables** should include :
  - D.1 Catalogue of good practices of "no regret" and "win-win" measures in view of climate change (1<sup>st</sup> version mid 2011, to be updated on an ongoing basis);
  - D.2 Report on flood risk management and economics and decision making support (1<sup>st</sup> report late-2011)
  - D.3 Development of scope for database on significant past floods linked to reporting in WISE, and supported by JRC.

## V. Links with other activities

- Information exchange activities to link and coordinate with other relevant Water Framework Directive and relevant CIS activities, including reporting, climate change adaptation, biodiversity, economics and hydro-morphology
- Information exchange activities to link and coordinate with other relevant EU and international level activities, including civil protection, accident prevention, integrated coastal zone management, agriculture, critical infrastructure, regional and structural development and, JRC's activities on floods such as European Flood Alert System, and in coordination with DG RTD, relevant research initiatives and projects including Era-net CRUE.

## VI. Timetable

**WG F plenary meetings** will take place twice a year. Two or three **WG F Thematic workshops** may be organised each year.

<b>WG F Tasks</b>	<b>2010</b>				<b>2011</b>				<b>2012</b>			
Reporting formats												
WG meetings												
<b>Thematic Workshops</b>												
D.1 Catalogue of good practices												
D.2 Report on flood risk management and economics												
D.3 Development of scope for database on significant past floods												

<b>Directive Tasks</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>
CA/UOM						
PFRA						
Maps						
FRMP						
Art 13						

## VII. Structure and organisation

**Agendas** of **WG F** meetings to be agreed by co-chairs, and to include elements on WG F and Directive tasks, information exchange and links with other activities. The purpose of the meetings is to provide a platform to meet the stated purpose and objectives of WG F. Discussion papers may be prepared and presented by members or the Commission to facilitate information exchange and achieving a common understanding on specific relevant themes or issues.

**Members** are in principle one main delegate per Member States and international inter-governmental bodies, such as international river basin commissions, regional seas. Additional contact persons can be appointed, and additional participants can attend the meetings. Stakeholder organisation representing relevant flood risk management interests at the European level can be members according to the CIS/SCG rules. Relevant research or other EU relevant projects can be invited on an ad-hoc basis. Other inter-governmental bodies such as WMO, UNESCO may also be members.

A maximum of two to three **WG F Thematic workshops** may be organised each year by members in conjunction with open organisation committees, based on agreements in WG F on which themes to address and according to Workshop outlines as agreed by WG F. Participation in workshops is open to a broader audience than WG F, but invitations are primarily sent via WG F Members.

The **Drafting group on Reporting** will continue its work until at least 2011, depending on progress. The aim is to develop reporting sheets, IT formats, reporting tools, visualisation of floods Directive related information in WISE and to make sure reporting via WISE is fully INSPIRE and SEIS compliant. This concerns all stages of implementation of the Directive, notification of Competent Authorities and Units of Management, reports on Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Maps, Flood Risk Management Plans and notification of transitional measures.

Documents should be made available at least 2 weeks before WGF related meeting.

## **VIII. Outreach**

Given the early stages of implementation of the Directive, the focus of outreach activities by WG F will be to ensure transparency of activities at EU level in relation to the requirements and implementation of the Directive. EC will ensure clear information is provided on DG ENV Europa internet pages and CIRCA. The results of information exchange on key themes addressed at workshops will be made available to the public via CIRCA. Two-four page summaries (of workshop results and other key deliverables) will be prepared for wider dissemination.

## **IX. Lead countries/organisations**



Name	Organisation / Member State	E-mail
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## ANNEX I

Themes relevant to the purpose and objectives of WG F:

- Flood risk management plans,
- Flood mapping,
- Preliminary flood risk assessment,
- Climate change and implementation of the Floods Directive, and in addition link with other activities on Climate change,
- Economic assessment and funding of flood risk management measures,
- Vulnerability assessment,
- Links with civil protection at national and European level, such as the Prevention of natural and Manmade disasters Initiative, the Community Mechanism for Civil Protection, etc
- Links with all aspects of flood risk management, from prevention, preparedness, early warning, response and lessons learned
- Specific flood types where further knowledge is necessary for implementation such as flash floods, pluvial floods, groundwater floods,
- Links with the Water Framework Directive
- Links with protection of critical infrastructure activities
- Reporting including links with INSPIRE and SEIS
- Other specific issues arising from the requirements for the implementation of the Directive

# Mandate Expert Group Climate Change and Water



## I. Introduction

Although it is unlikely that significant climate change impacts will lead to a reclassification of sites during the time span of the second river basin management cycle, activities have to be put in place to start incorporating climate change in the WFD 'analysis' and 'planning' steps with a view to accounting for potential longer term influences on the status of water bodies as well as on the effectiveness of the Programmes of Measures. Those have to be undergo a climate check and may have to be further developed in order to ensure a lasting implementation of WFD objectives under changing future climate conditions.

Examples of incorporation of climate change in river basin management will become available more and more, also given the many initiatives on improving the knowledge base and gathering data related to climate change impacts on water. This information needs to be exchanged and transferred to river basin managers. In addition, after the development of the 2009 guidance document, there may be specific needs for further developing the guidance document or complementing it with recommendations on detailed issues. In some cases, this could be best done by other specific CIS Working Groups or Expert Groups. However, there is a need to coordinate these activities as well as further water-related EU activities on climate change adaptation in the context of the follow up to the Commission White Paper on Adaptation.

## II. Objectives

- Exchange information on climate change impacts knowledge (strengthen the Science/Policy link)
- Exchange information on approaches, methodologies, tools etc for incorporating climate change in river basin management
- Coordinate CIS related activities to climate change
- Follow the further water-related EU activities on Climate Change Adaptation (follow-up of White Paper)

## III. Tasks

5. Organise meetings (including workshops) to exchange information on specific elements of climate change incorporation in river basin management, such as:
  - a. feedback from river basin managers on experiences with applying the 2009 guidance document in practice -
  - b. Approaches for enhancing climate resilience and carrying out a sensitivity check of WFD programmes of measures
  - c. How to deal with uncertainty of climate change impacts in river basin management
  - d. Outcomes of relevant research projects

There are not yet specific proposals for workshops to be organised, but the co-chairs together with the members of the expert group will strive to identify proposals for a set of workshops to be organised in 2010/2011/2012 within the coming months. The Strategic Coordination Group will be informed about these proposals.

6. In the light of the results of these exchange meetings, evaluate the need for complementing the 2009 guidance document by specific recommendations on certain issues, and/or developing a further best practice document.

7. Maintain an electronic exchange forum (Circa) where relevant information can be posted
8. Give input to activities of the follow-up process of the White Paper on Adaptation related to river basin management issues:
  - a. Development of Clearing House Mechanism on Impacts, Vulnerability and Adaptation
  - b. EC-DG ENV Study on 'Climate adaptation – modelling water scenarios and sectoral impacts'
  - c. Impact and Adaptation Steering Group (IASG)

#### IV. Deliverables

1. Meeting reports
2. Optional: complement to 2009 guidance
3. Optional: recommendations for consideration and endorsement by the Water Directors
4. Good practice compilation of experiences with incorporating climate change when preparing the second river basin management plans.
5. Regularly updated electronic exchange forum (Circa).

#### V. Links with other CIS activities

There are potential links with the Working Groups on Ecological Status, Groundwater and Floods, and the Expert Groups on Water Scarcity and Droughts and Agriculture. Detailed links to their climate related activities will be added, once draft mandates for these activities are available.

#### VI. Timetable

Time	2010*				2011*				2012*			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Exchange meetings			X				X				X	
Electronic information sharing	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Deliverables</b>												
Meeting reports (including possible recommendations to WD)				X				X				X
Good practice document in incorporating cc when preparing 2 <sup>nd</sup> rbm plans												X

\*Each year at least one workshop could be organised on a topic related to the tasks of the Expert Group. Such workshops will be prepared by the Expert Group, preferably in cooperation with a Member State which is volunteering to host a workshop. Proposals for workshops will be forwarded to the Strategic Coordination Group for their agreement.

## VI. Structure and organisation

Germany and the European Commission will take the lead of the activity. The co-leaders will present progress and intermediate outcomes to the Strategic Coordination Group and the Water Directors.

An Expert Group will exist to assist the leaders in the activity. In this Group, Member States representatives, stakeholders, NGOs and research representatives will take part. The other groups of the Common Implementation Strategy will deliver specific input from their field of expertise.

## VII. Lead countries/organisations

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# Mandate Expert Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts



## I. Introduction

Water Scarcity and Droughts (WS&D) was first addressed by the Water Directors in a meeting in 2003. In June 2006 a technical document and a policy summary on Water Scarcity & Droughts produced by a drafting group under the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) was presented. In parallel, a Mediterranean Working Group, set up in the framework of the MED-EU Water Initiative / Water framework Directive, produced a report on Mediterranean specificities and examples in the region.

During the Environment Council of March 2006, a number of Member States requested to initiate a European Action on Water Scarcity & Droughts, which later translated into a **Communication** from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council: Addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts in the European Union (COM (2007)414 final, 18 July 2007).

An in-depth assessment, based on complementary data provided by MS and stakeholders, was presented to the Water Directors in June 2007. In parallel, an **Expert Network on Water Scarcity & Drought** was set up within the CIS Structure on December 2006. The Network developed the technical document “Drought Management Report, including Agricultural, Drought Indicators and Climate Change Aspects” (DMP report) which was endorsed by Water Directors in November 2007. This report set the basis for developing, when appropriate, drought management plans complementary to the River Basin management plans, aiming at minimizing the socio-economic and environmental WS&D impacts. The DMP report recommends strategic, operative and administrative measures to be applied progressively, according to the drought status, which is previously identified through indicator systems.

The technical work undertaken up to date identified a list of pending issues dealing with WFD implementation process, to be further analysed: **common EU indicators for both water scarcity and droughts, risk maps and early warning systems.**

The aim of the follow-up process of the Expert Group is to provide pragmatic and simple indicators for both water scarcity and drought in order to provide a clear picture throughout the EU.

The objective is to come up with a limited number of indicators for water uses, water availability etc. capturing both the natural phenomena and the socio-economic aspects. The indicators will be mainly built on the basis of case studies proposed by voluntary countries (ES, IT, Fr, etc.) which reflect different climatic, socio-economic hydrologic conditions, and confronted and complemented by the existing indicators in other EU countries.

The indicators should help in the implementation of the WFD at river basin level (by preparation of drought management plans, early warning systems, etc.), should identify the extent and magnitude of the socio-economic and environmental problems caused by WS&D: zones concerned by using an indicator based approach and developing risk maps where possible, causes of these phenomena and valuation of their impacts;

The working group may address potential gaps in the EU legislation referring to WS&D (prevention and mitigation measures) and propose recommendations and technical/financial tools.

## II. Objectives

The main objectives of the WS&D Expert Group are:

- To further analyse and address the list of pending issues (**indicators, risk maps, drought management plans**) under the WFD implementation process. Indicators and maps will allow Member States to establish drought phases and structural water scarcity, applied recommended measures included in the DMP report, and minimize WS&D socio-economic and environmental impacts. In addition, works will assist clarifying the feasibility of the use of European indicator frameworks for regional and local assessments.
- To function as forum for WS&D issues and, where appropriate, to provide advice on WS&D issues to Water Directors via the Strategic Coordination Group.

The Expert Group will, where appropriate, provide advice on WS&D issues to WD's, and disseminate the EU experience to international fora. An active involvement is expected for the International Conference "*Droughts and water scarcity: the path to climate change adaptation*", Madrid, Spain, 18-19 February 2010.

In addition, the Expert Group will be informed of the activities set up through the Mediterranean EUWI/WFD Joint Process, and future projects of the Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean (Union for the Mediterranean) related to WS&D. It will exchange experiences such as, *inter alia*, effects of climate change in areas affected by water scarcity and droughts, or applying mitigation and preventing measures. The Expert Group should also ensure science and policy interlinkages by acting as a communication channel for results coming from EU WS&D research activities, and promote the use of advance technological tools in the field (e.g. remote sensing techniques).

## III. Tasks

The main tasks identified to be further developed by the Expert Group are as follows:

1. Support the definition of commonly accepted **indicators for water**

**scarcity and for droughts)** in Europe including the demonstration of the added value of these indicators.

2. Exchange information on WS&D in the **first river basin management plans**.
3. **Transfer and exchange experience** and expertise with international fora/other regions.
4. Contribute to the development of the **European Drought Observatory (EDO)** under development at JRC.
5. Support the creation of **Drought Risk Maps**, through commonly agreed methodology and scales.
6. Support the development of a progressive integration of WS&D aspects under **WISE, on voluntary basis**.
7. Link WS&D policies and strategies with **research initiatives**, especially within the FP7 framework (e.g. XEROCHORE project) and promote the use of appropriate technological tools. This can be done in close collaboration with the future SPI ad hoc activity.

**Roles and responsibilities:** The development of common indicators is the responsibility of the leaders of the expert network (IT, ES, FR) and close collaboration with the COM. The leaders will be supported by **EEA** in the frame of the general work on water quantity assessments.

**Member States will** voluntarily provide data to the Expert Group. Member States, in close collaboration with **EEA** and **JRC**, will evaluate the use of the developed European tools for the regional assessments regarding indicators for water scarcity (anthropogenic pressures) and for droughts (natural events). Member States will evaluate the initial results in pilot river basins, and check their effectiveness, reflecting the diversity of climate and hydrology within Europe, and specifying their needs for early warning systems.

The current version of the map server of the European Drought Observatory at **JRC** could serve as a test bed for the implementation, inter-comparison, and analysis of different drought indices and indicators throughout Europe. The integration within the EDO map server will allow for an evaluation of the chosen indices at different spatial scales.

Member States, under the supervision of the leaders of the Expert Group, will assess the process, provide expertise, and apply results in pilot river basins for the future use of possible common indicators in the implementation of the WFD (prepare drought management plans, elaborate early warning systems,...).

**Water Directors** will be invited to endorse a main list of common agreed indicators to be used for assessment purposes and risk map elaboration.

#### **IV. Deliverables**

The main deliverable of the Expert Group will be a set of indicators, previously assessed by Member States and endorsed by Water Directors.

Furthermore the possibility to integrate on a voluntary basis some WS&D data and information under WISE will be considered and potential contributions to the European Drought Observatory (EDO) at JRC will be explored.

Finally, the possible support to the development of drought risk maps in Member States will be supported. These maps will be obtained through common agreed indicators and methodologies that will allow implementing the DMP recommended measures.

Throughout the whole process, RBMPs aspects related to WS&D, research activities and their results, as well as useful technological tools, will be taken into account:

The indicative timetable for the Expert Group will be:

- **Year 2010:** first set of indicators to be tested in the pilot member states (Already identified Spain, Italy, France, UK –tbc-, Finland –tbc-...); contributions to EDO. Presentation of initial results in the International Conference “Droughts and water scarcity: the way towards adaptation to climate change”, Madrid, Spain, 18-19 February 2010.
- **Year 2011:** Practical application of indicators for additional member states voluntarily; contributions to EDO, and potential contribution to the development of an integration of WS&D aspects under **WISE on a voluntary basis**.
- **Year 2012:** Support the creation of Drought Risk Maps and assessment, contributions to EDO.

## V. Link to other CIS groups and regional initiatives

The WS&D Expert Group will give technical inputs to the existing WGs in order to ensure that specific aspects of WS&D are taken into consideration in the CIS WGs, in particular:

- Support to the **Working Group Reporting and WISE**: provide specific data for the WS&D
- Support to the **Temporary Expert Group “Agriculture and Water”** (basis already available on the DMP report): analysis of measures that could be used to address WS&D.
- Support to the **Temporary Expert Group “Climate change and water”**: contributions to links between climate change effects and water scarcity and droughts issues (analysis of the PoM, White Paper follow-up etc.).
- Support to **Working Group C Groundwater**: expertise when addressing specific measures to prevent and mitigate WS&D impacts in aquifers (e.g. specific control networks to avoid over-exploitation).



- Support to the **workshop on Environmental Objective and Exemptions:** contributions to the common understanding of *prolonged droughts* and its application (basis already available on Annex III of the Exemptions guidance); Measures to apply under exceptional circumstances.
- Support to the SPI ad hoc activity: identification of and support to research needs on WS&D issues.
- Exchange of expertise with the **Strategy for Water in the Mediterranean** related activities.

## VI. Timetable

Time	2010				2011				2012			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Exchange of first results on indicators International Drought Conference Madrid*	X											
1. Development and testing of indicators	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
2. Development of the indicators based on case studies	X	X	X	X								
3. Contributions to EDO	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4. Potential support to integration of WS&D aspects under WISE on a voluntary basis					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
5. Exchange of information on RBMP		X	X	X								
5. Approval of list of indicators by Water Directors						X						
<b>Deliverables</b>												
Common agreed indicators			X	X	X	X	X	X				
Application of indicators					X	X	X	X				
Support to the development of Risk maps									X	X	X	X

\* *Droughts and water scarcity: the path to climate change adaptation*, Madrid, 18-19 February 2010

## VII. Lead countries/organisations

The following people will be the contact persons of the WS&D Expert Group.

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<b>Leading countries</b>		
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<b>Commission</b>		
Henriette Faergemann	EC, DG Environment	Henriette.Faergemann@ec.europa.eu

The Water Scarcity and Droughts Expert Group should be reinforced, based on the existing WS&D Expert Network established by WD in 2006, supplemented with additional MS and stakeholders who might be interested in the upcoming tasks. Experts dealing with the development of indicators are especially welcome.

Although most of the drafting, discussion on documents and data reporting will be done through e-mails, the EG will meet on regular basis in order to exchange views on the ongoing work. Spain, Italy and France will lead the overall activity in close collaboration with the Commission.

# Mandate Expert Group on WFD and Agriculture



## I. Introduction

The reform of the EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) in 2003 increased the opportunities for contributing to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). A working document prepared by the Environment Directorate General of the European Commission highlighted a number of opportunities where the CAP can help achieve the WFD objectives (European Commission, DG Environment, 2003). However, achieving these objectives remains a challenge. Acknowledging this, the Water Directors, agreed in June 2004 to take action in the context of the Common Implementation Strategy (CIS). To this aim, they established an EU Strategic Stirring Group (SSG) to address the issues of interrelations between CAP and WFD. The SSG will continue its activities as an Expert Group (EG) from 2010.

## II. Objectives

The aim of the group is to identify 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 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. The activity should be continued to be targeted to the Member State authorities, the Commission and interest groups, including farmer organisations, water services operators and environmental organisations who are dealing with the WFD and the CAP.

## III. Tasks

### 9. Water pricing and agriculture

Exchange experiences on different pricing systems (e.g. taxes, charges) as well as possible ways of implementing the polluter pays principle and cost recovery.

Outputs:

- a. A work programme concerning the implementation of Article 9 in relation to the agriculture sector. The work programme will ask Member States to bring forward for discussion, potential best practice approaches (case studies) that aim to embed the cost of agriculture both in terms of pollution and demand (water pricing mechanisms) and discuss the application of these for other MS. The role of the Pilot River Basins network (PRB) in providing practical examples of implementation will be considered.
- b. Assessment of the economic and social impact of water pricing on agricultural sector with a focus on the best ways of implementation to reach the WFD objectives and to set incentives for water saving.

COM, DG ENV is undertaking an in-depth assessment of the agricultural measures included in the draft River Basin Management Plans by the end of 2009. The assessment also covers how Article 9 is being implemented as set out in the dRBMPs. The outcomes of the study will be available to inform discussion

## **10. Agricultural measures in the dRBMPs and RBMPs**

A conclusion emerging from a preliminary screening of draft RBMPs is that the agricultural measures included in the programmes of measures need to be further specified in terms of areas, costs and ways of implementation. A clear interlinkage with the Rural Development Programs should also be assured. EG should address the problem and come up with suggestion for actions.

Outputs:

- a. Exchange of information (presentation of case studies) on the agricultural measures included in the programmes of measures (and those under development but not yet in POMs) and to what extent MS are using measures in the catalogue of measures developed for the farming sector. What additional measures can be added to the catalogue. The PRB network can assist in coordinating case studies.
- b. Assessment of the options for water saving in agriculture and the costs and benefits of different options.

As mentioned above, DG ENV is currently undertaking an in depth assessment of the agricultural measures included in the draft River Basin Management Plans and the EG can help in identifying gaps and proposing solutions.

## **11. Providing input to the further development of an EU water saving policy**

This activity would cover:

- discussion on the input needed for the implementation of the policy options in the area of water scarcity and droughts.
- discussion on the development of new water infrastructures in the agricultural sector, on the use of alternative water supply options, on financial support for improving water efficiency.

Output:

- a. Identification of the gaps in the research activities serving for implementing a water saving culture and drafting of a proposal for a research programme.

## **12. Input to the implementation of the revised RD-programs/regulation**

The achievements of the cross compliance reform required a revision of existing RD measures. The input to the implementation of the new measures could cover exchange of views on:

- the evolution of the amounts devoted to water related measures in the RD programmes after the CAP health-check. Comparison with the cost of programmes of measures in agricultural sector.
- buffer strips along the water courses which shall be considered through cross-compliance scheme, through nitrate action programmes or as well through agri-environmental scheme. The exchange of views will include a compilation of scientific evidence and results on what optimal and effective buffer strips are, focusing inter alia on width and nature (e.g. potential need for permanent vegetation).

- effectiveness and regional distribution of RD measures in order to better target and design measures in the future.

- implementation of Art 38 of the RDR.

The study "Place of WFD issues in rural development programmes and Workshop related to WFD and Agriculture" highlights several issues that should be investigated in further detail. In particular the following issues should be addressed:

- \* how are certain pressures identified in the regional or national RD Programs geographically targeted by the measures set up by MS in these programs. In combination with budget information (e.g. Euro/hectare under AEM) and analysing the development of the pressures over time, such information could provide valuable input in making RDPs more effective and efficient

- \* Further development of the common set of monitoring indicators, in particular for the next programming period. Currently, the set of indicators does not fully cover agricultural pressures.

- \* How to ensure that the new RD measures proposed in MS RD programmes (e.g. measures to increase bio-energy cropping, measures to improve the capacity to store water) addressing new CAP Health Check achievements will not lead to mismanaged intensification and not have negative effects on the environment.

- \* Measures with multiple benefits

Outputs:

- a. Assessment of the degree to which existing cross compliance and RDPs are helping to meet WFD objectives.
- b. Assessment of the cost effectiveness of measures targeting agriculture and implemented under the WFD in order to draw lessons for the future development of measures under upcoming RD programs. (It should be considered in the revised RDPs together with the water pricing.)

### **13. Input to the ongoing activities on Climate Change and Adaptation (follow up of COM activities, CIS Guidance)**

Input could be provided to the ongoing discussion on adaption indicators from a water perspective in agriculture related issues, and also to the further development of regional and national adaptation strategies.

### **14. Enhanced inter-linkages between the EU CAP and water policy**

There has been significant progress in finding common approaches and linkages between the agricultural and the water sector. The discussions on the input to the CAP beyond 2013 can start.

Continuation of the issues have been identified under the previous work program:

- Impact of decoupling on water use: the link between decoupling and environmental impacts should be better examined. An exchange of views on impact of decoupling on water use should be organised.

- Effectiveness of cross-compliance requirements to address water issues need to be assessed.

- Place of water issues in farm advisory systems. In order to improve the focus on the water of these systems, the continuation of the work related to elaboration of guidelines could be a useful tool to support MSs and farmers.

Output:

- guideline to address water use in the farm advisory system.

#### **15. Input to the ongoing activities on Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

Agriculture pressures need to be addressed in the Mediterranean and Baltic region to serve as an input to the drafting of the marine strategies.

Exchange of views on what MS do to address this issue is requested.

Outputs:

- a. Development of two papers proposing measures addressing the agricultural pressures on water in the Mediterranean and Baltic region.

#### **IV. Deliverables**

1. A work programme concerning the implementation of Article 9 in relation to the agriculture sector and assessment of the impact of water pricing on agriculture
2. Assessment of the options for water saving in agriculture and the costs and benefits of the different options. Under this assessment also a proposal for a research programme supporting the implementation of a water saving culture in agriculture should be developed.
4. Assessment of the cost effectiveness of agricultural measures implemented under the WFD and the effectiveness of cross-compliance requirements to address water issues. This assessment should consider in particular the implementation and (cost) effectiveness of the buffer strips along water courses. A compilation of scientific evidence and results on what optimal and effective buffer strips are, will be provided as basis for this assessment.
5. Assessment of the degree to which existing cross compliance and RDPs are helping to meet WFD objectives.
6. Further work on guidelines to address water use in the farm advisory system.
7. Development of two papers proposing measures addressing the agricultural pressures on water (e.g. diffuse sources of pollution), with a focus on the Mediterranean and Baltic region.

The deliverables will be disseminated by the EG members and presented to the SCG and Water directors. A final activity report will be also written to inform the SCG and the Water Directors.

#### **V. Links with other CIS activities**

## VI. Timetable

Time	2010				2011				2012			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Management phase	x				x				x			
EG meetings		x		x		x		x		x		x
Conferences/workshops				x				x				x
<b>Deliverables</b>												
EG meeting summary report			x	x			x	x			x	x
Final activity report												x
Work program and assessment concerning water pricing				x								
Assessment of the options for water saving in agriculture and the costs and benefits of the different options						x						
Cost effectiveness of agricultural measures (including cross compliance)				x								
Assessment of the degree to which existing cross compliance and RDPs are helping to meet WFD objectives.					x							
Further work on guideline to address water use in the farm advisory system						x						
Development of two papers proposing measures addressing the agricultural pressures on water in the Mediterranean and Baltic region		x					x					

## VI. Structure and organisation

The EG should report work progress directly to the Strategic Coordination Group and the Water Directors.

Meetings will be organised when the EG feedback will be required by DG AGRI and DG ENV.

The possibility of the organisation of PRB network to support the exchange of information on agri-environmental issues related to the WFD and the Marine Strategy Directive (eg. to assist in finding the gaps where research is needed, supporting the discussions on water saving by delivering examples on good local water management) should be considered.

Furthermore, in order to cope with the most recent policy developments, the detailed work plans under this mandate will detail and adapt to the ongoing events/changes.

The activity will be lead by DG ENV, the United Kingdom and France.

**VII. Lead countries/organisations**

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