

Informal meeting of Water and Marine Directors of the European Union, Candidate and EFTA Countries

Heraklion, 5th and 6th of June 2014

Final Synthesis

Introduction

The Water and Marine Directors of the European Union¹ (EU) and EFTA countries² met on 5th and 6st of June 2014³.

The Marine Directors (MD) discussed, in particular

- The state of implementation of the MSFD
- The agreements reached in the CIS of the MSFD
- The follow up to the recommendations included in the article 12 report on the first phase of implementation of the MSFD, together with representatives of Regional Sea Conventions and ICES.
- European Commission activities relevant to the MSFD

Together with the Water Directors (WD), they discussed

- Developing the programme of measures and reporting together for WFD and MSFD
- Financing opportunities for water and environment policy
- Progress on the joint agenda of the water, marine, biodiversity and nature directors
- Progress on joint guidance on sustainable aquaculture
- Information points on future Presidencies and the new Swiss legislation on micropollutants

The Water Directors discussed, in particular:

- The progress on the Common Implementation Strategy
- The ECOSTAT work on nutrients
- The finalisation of the Water Scarcity and Droughts indicators
- The finalisation of the WFD Reporting Guidance
- A number of Commission activities related to the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Water, the European Citizens' Initiative on Right to Water, the progress in the implementation of water industry directives and the preparations for a European Water Conference in March 2015
- Information on other issues such as the publication of the Special Report from the European Court of Auditors on the integration on water policy and Common Agriculture Policy and the International Water Conventions

¹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom and the European Commission (COM) and the EEA.

² Iceland, Norway and Switzerland.

³ The executive secretaries of the relevant Regional Seas Conventions and other international organisations (ICES, GFCM) have been invited to take part in the Marine Directors meeting. HELCOM, The Barcelona Convention, OSPAR and ICES attended the meeting.

The present note summarises the main elements discussed, and the agreements reached, during the Water and Marine Directors meeting. The agenda of the meeting is in [Annex I](#), the list of participants is in [Annex II](#).

Outcome of the meeting

PART 1: MARINE DIRECTORS' MEETING

Mr Triantis, Special Secretary for Water of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change and Greek Water and Marine Director welcomed the participants.

1 *Transposition and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)*

The Commission provided an overview on the latest state-of-play regarding transposition and implementation, particularly focussing on the recent reporting on the Article 8, 9 and 10 reports. The Marine Directors took note of the information.

2 *Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) activities for the MSFD*

2.1 *Overall progress on the CIS work programme and information on agreements made at MSCG*

Marine Directors took note of the information and the progress of the MSFD Programme of Measures Recommendation, welcomed the agreements reached at the MSCG and endorsed them, including the follow up process for the recommendation on programmes of measures set up in document MD/2014-1/1.

2.2 and 2.3 *Commission report (Article 12 assessment)– outcome, results of regional meetings and follow up*

Marine Directors took note of the information and the progress of the MSFD CIS progress, in particular the outcome of the four regional meetings (when finalised) organised in follow up to Article 12 report on the first phase of implementation of the MSFD. Marine Directors agreed that an adaptation of the current Work Programme for the MSFD Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) was not necessary at this stage since it includes already the necessary common actions at EU level to address the most important areas for improvements identified in the Commission report.

Marine Directors also discussed with the Secretariats of the Regional Sea Conventions (OSPAR, HELCOM and Barcelona Convention) and the Secretary General of ICES how their organisations could contribute further to the implementation of the MSFD and to the activities and gaps identified in the article 12 follow up meetings. Marine Directors clarified their expectations for further work within the respective regional cooperation processes

In the Mediterranean, Member States welcomed the role of the ECAP project to implement the ecosystem approach in the Mediterranean, in synergy with the MSFD. And took note of the progress of ECAP, stressing its potential to reach good environmental status in the Mediterranean and improve coordination in the region, including for EU Member States, noting however the need to continue the work to better harmonize timelines between the Convention and the MSFD and specifically the ongoing capacity building process

In the OSPAR region, Marine Directors underlined the potential for further regional cooperation in the region to improve coherence (such as, common indicators and programmes of

measures) and pool resources in an efficient way. Marine Directors stressed the need for OSPAR to continue to receive the necessary support to conduct this work. The issue of Macaronesia, part of which is not covered by OSPAR, was raised and the possibility for further support in the coordination among MS, OSPAR and the Commission in Macaronesia was discussed.

In the Baltic Sea Region, Marine Directors stressed the importance of allocating adequate resources to HELCOM work, in particular at expert group and secretariat level, in order to ensure ownership and use of HELCOM outputs by Member States in the framework of the MSFD. Marine Directors took note of HELCOM's activities which could be used in support of MSFD implementation, including the upcoming roof report.

In particular, on fisheries aspects in relation to MSFD, Marine directors encouraged close collaboration between ICES and the GFCM

Marine Directors also took note of ongoing activities of ICES in support of the MSFD, in particular in relation to GES review, monitoring, assessments and data management as well as in the link to the scientific advice on relation to fisheries. Marine Directors welcomed the willingness of ICES to cooperate closely with other international organisations with the view to finding best possible solutions and outcomes. Marine Directors encouraged further collaboration between RSCs and RFMOs.

In the Black Sea region, the particular challenge in implementing the MSFD and regional cooperation on marine protection issues and fisheries was highlighted by the Member States of the region. Continued support from the Commission would be needed to make good progress there.

In the discussion, Marine Directors underlined unanimously the importance of regional cooperation and coherence including between the RSCs, and welcomed the good progress and developments in this debate since the last discussions at the Marine Directors with the RSCs. The resource constraints and the need for efficient and effective cooperation was underlined by everybody. At the same time, the Marine Directors recognised that the regional meetings had resulted in some pragmatic ideas and suggestions which should be discussed and specified further in the relevant fora in each region. This would also allow Member States which have not participated in the regional meetings and third countries to join the debate and engage in the cooperation process.

3 Commission activities regarding the MSFD

3.1 New Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning – link to MSFD implementation

The Marine Directors took note of the information provided by the Commission and insisted on the need to take synergies with the MSFD into account when transposing and implementing the MSP Directive. Cooperation in the implementation programmes of both Directives could be envisaged, paying attention to environmental aspects when implementing the MSP directive

3.2 New Regulation on Invasive Alien Species – link to MSFD implementation

The Marine Directors took note of the information provided by the Commission and underlined also with this Regulation that cooperation and synergies are possible in the implementation processes of the various Directives.

3.3 *Recent Commission activities with relevance to the marine environment, e.g. Outcome HOPE Conference, Blue Growth-related Communications (ocean energy, coastal and marine tourism, blue innovation)*

The Marine Directors took note of the information provided by the European Commission in writing in document MD/2014-1/3.

4 *European and international issues*

4.1 *Council discussions on marine issues (including outcome of the informal Environmental Council discussion on "Sustainable Blue Growth" and preparation of Council Conclusions on Integrated Maritime Policy)*

The Marine Directors took note of the information presented by the Greek Presidency on the outcome of the informal Environmental Council discussion on "Sustainable Blue Growth" and the preparation of Council Conclusions on Integrated Maritime Policy. The Marine Directors agreed to come back to the links between Blue Growth and the MSFD at the next Marine Directors' meeting, in Rome, Italy. The incoming Italian Presidency informed the meeting that they were discussing also a particular activity on this subject during their Presidency.

4.2 *International discussions on marine issues including Rio+20 follow up and UN World Oceans Assessment*

The Marine Directors took note of the information presented by the Greek Presidency on the follow up to Rio+20 and by the Commission about its Communication 'A decent life for all: from vision to collective action', which supports, i.a., the sustainable development goal on oceans and suggests a number of targets underpinning this goal.

PART 2: JOINT WATER-MARINE DIRECTORS' MEETING

5 *Common Implementation Strategies – developing the programme of measures and reporting (together) for water and marine environment policy*

Water and Marine Directors took note of and welcomed the document WMD/2014-1/4 and discussed the cooperation between Water and Marine Directors in the preparation, public participation and reporting of the programme of measures under WFD and MSFD as well as other Directives (FRMD, MSP).

The proposed recommendations (see [Annex III](#)) were appreciated and revised following the discussion to take account of some particular differences in approaches across Member States. Furthermore, the reference to earlier discussions of the Water and Marine Directors was made, in particular the discussion document of landlocked countries from June 2012 (Copenhagen meeting) where such issues were raised and agreed in principle. The agreed recommendations are enclosed as a guide for further work on the programme of measures. In particular, Marine and Water Directors agreed to further develop reporting solutions to avoid double reporting between the MSFD and the WFD.

6 Financing opportunities for water and marine environment policy

6.1 *Update on the outcome and state-of-play of the key financing instruments, in particular ERDF, EARDF, EMFF, Horizon 2020, LIFE, including particular support projects*

6.2 *Preparation of operational programmes, opportunities for water and marine policy – discussion*

The Water and Marine Directors took note of the information provided by the Commission, and in particular of the information provided in the Annex to document WMD/2014-1/5. They noted that the first call under the new LIFE programme will be launched in June; the first call for proposals under Horizon 2020 was published on 11 December 2013 and that the recent publication of the EMFF and the ongoing discussion on delegated and implementing acts was particularly relevant with regard to the MSFD.

In particular, as regards Regional and Cohesion Policy – Ex-ante conditionalities, the Water and Marine Directors took note that the European Commission expected:

- Member States, when conditionalities are not fulfilled, to include the actions to remediate the gaps already in the draft River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) that are due to public consultation by the end of 2014, and eventually in the final RBMPs to be adopted in 2015. These actions would respond to the Commission's 2012 WFD implementation report recommendations and reflect actions agreed as a follow-up of the bilateral meetings on WFD implementation.

Moreover, in selecting funding priorities, Member States are invited to pay special attention to the implementation of article 4.7 for navigation and energy related projects; to the opportunities offered by Green Infrastructure for flood protection; to the need to focus drainage and irrigation investments under the EARDF.

As regards the EMFF, the Commission invited Member States to be more specific in their operational programmes, as a first analysis of early drafts has shown that references to MSFD could be strengthened. In particular, the link between proposed EMFF measures and achievement of GES under the MSFD could be strengthened, and when conducting the SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats), marine environment pressures and threats could be better addressed, using the Member States' Art 8, 9 and 10 reporting (and the Commission's Art 12 report) to identify weaknesses/threats to the marine environment which the EMFF could help improving through the operational programme.

The Water and Marine Directors agreed to continue and/or step up efforts to include relevant actions in support of water and marine policy implementation into their operational programmes under the various financing instruments.

7 Water / Marine / Biodiversity and Nature policy and implementation – progress on joint agenda

The Commission presented the progress in the follow up actions (see document WMD/2014-1/6) in particular with regards the preparatory work on a joint workshop on coordinated implementation tentatively scheduled for 2 and 3 December 2014. FR and DE offered additional assistance in this preparatory process. The Water and Marine Directors took note of the information and welcomed the progress to date.

In addition, SE reported on the discussion and outcome of the Nature Directors meeting of April 2014 in relation to the link to the new CFP and, in particular the Article 11 thereof, the joint recommendations. SE underlined the link to the discussions at the last joint meeting and that this issue was also of particular relevance for the MSFD implementation. The Water and Marine

Directors took note of this report and welcomed the conclusions of the Nature Directors and supported the aim of working together towards coordination, implementation of policies and measures. As regards the Nature Directors conclusions, they supported the following agreement, in particular :

- “The Nature Directors called for strengthening collaboration and joint efforts between the environment and fisheries authorities at both national and EU levels for developing measures for Natura 2000 sites under Art. 11 of the new CFP Regulation.”
- “They stress the need for complementarity and synergies between the environment and fisheries policies to this effect.”
- Nature directors commit themselves to take initiatives for closer cooperation with their national fisheries authorities to ensure compliance and synergies of policies and measures.
- “They invited DG ENV and DG MARE to facilitate – in a proactive manner – the joint approach, *inter alia*, by making effective use of their respective “working groups” and organising back-to-back meetings, when appropriate.”

8 Sustainable Aquaculture – progress on joint guidance on MSFD and WFD

The Water and Marine Directors took note of the information provided by the European Commission as regards the upcoming joint guidance. The Commission will update on progress and results at the next meeting.

9 Other issues

9.1 Upcoming Presidencies

The incoming IT Presidency informed the meeting that the next Water and Marine Directors meeting will take place on 24 and 25 November 2014 in Rome.

The future LV Presidency announced that their meeting will be on 26 and 27 May 2015 in Riga.

The subsequent LU Presidency shared their current planning to have a joint meeting of Water, Marine and Nature Directors in the week commencing the 23 November 2015. The meeting will take place in Luxembourg City in the Council building. Details will be shared at a later stage.

9.2 New Swiss legislation on elimination of micropollutants in urban waste water

The Water and Marine Directors took note of the information provided by the Swiss delegation on their experiences in this area.

PART 3: WATER DIRECTORS' MEETING

10 WFD Common Implementation Strategy

10.1 Progress report on CIS

The Water Directors (WD) took note of the overall progress of the CIS activities in the last six months.

It was proposed and agreed that the document on basic and supplementary measures discussed at the WG Agriculture is also discussed at the WG on Programmes of Measures.

As regards activities on hydromorphology, WD requested the SCG co-chairs and the WG leads to discuss at their next prep-SCG the coordination of the work between the various working elements. SE offered to prepare a draft to be considered at the next prep-SCG meeting.

WD reiterated their request to have a scoreboard of progress in the CIS work programme implementation updated for every meeting and invited the WG leads to discuss it at the next prep-SCG meeting.

As regards the development of the watch list under the priority substances directive, WD stressed the need to ensure a proper consultation in order to achieve a good outcome.

10.2 ECOSTAT work on Nutrients

WD welcomed and endorsed the proposal from ECOSTAT to develop a good practice document as a result of the CIS activity on exchange of information on the use of nutrient standards for ecological status classification. WD committed to ensure proper support for this activity from experts covering all relevant Directives and policies.

WD took note that the ECOSTAT work on assessment of nutrient conditions is intended to be based on technical and scientific basis, and the work aims at improving

- targeting and implementation of measures for the reduction of nutrients discharge into water
- monitoring of measures' effectiveness
- further integration and consistency in the implementation of the related Directives and across Member States

WD agreed to propose a strategic discussion on nutrients to be held in 2015 at the joint session of one of the Water and Marine meetings. DE and UK offered to help in preparing such discussion.

10.3 Finalisation of water scarcity & droughts indicators

WD took note of the oral presentation by the Commission.

WD endorsed the factsheets for 3 water scarcity & droughts indicators (Snowpack, Standardised Run-off Index (SRI) & Soil Moisture) to be added to the previously endorsed indicators (WEI+, fAPAR, SPI).

WD mandated the WG Groundwater to finalise the factsheet for the Groundwater indicator lead by Belgium.

WD agreed that thresholds for the WEI+ indicator should be discussed by the WG water Accounts. Specific consultation should be carried out with Mediterranean MS in relation to the application of thresholds in severely water stressed river basins. Maps to be published in WISE on WSD should be shared with MS before publication

10.4 Reporting guidance

COM introduced the agenda point providing some background on the development of the guidance.

WD thanked all experts involved in the preparation of the draft guidance.

A number of drafting suggestions and changes were proposed by several delegations and agreed by WD. They are reflected in the track changes version of the guidance included as **Annex IV** to this synthesis.

Water Directors endorsed the guidance document as a basis for the following process to develop and finalise the reporting tools:

- Since 3 MS have indicated they still need to fully review chapters 9.2, 9.3, 10 (including Annex 3) and 11, they will provide technical comments, if any, to the Commission by the 20th of June. The Commission will then incorporate them as far as possible and distribute the final version of the guidance to all MS by the end of June.
- The Commission (ENV and JRC) and the EEA with the support from WG DIS will develop during the second semester of 2014 the following complementary and supporting elements for the implementation of the guidance:
 - Full XML schemas to reflect the agreed contents (distinguishing between required, conditional and optional elements)
 - Reporting tools including validation checks
 - GIS guidance (Annex 5)
 - Reportnet guidance (Annex 6)
 - INSPIRE check: this will ensure that the reporting contents are in line with the INSPIRE data specifications
- In parallel, the guidance will undergo a thorough coherence and consistency check carried out by COM in cooperation with WG DIS. This may lead to some technical adjustments. These will be transparently reported by the WG DIS to the SCG and to Water Directors.
- The whole package of draft tools and supporting guidance will be presented to the SCG and to the Water Directors in November 2014. On this basis, it will be proposed to launch a testing period during the first trimester of 2015.
- The final versions of the reporting tools and supporting guidance will then be released for use in June 2015, nine months ahead of the reporting deadline.

Several MS requested that special attention should be given in the context of the coherence check to the requirements of the WFD and the references to the SoE reporting.

Once the reporting tools will be released a help desk system will be put in place to ensure that any further issue with the reporting tools could be solved.

One WD considers that trend monitoring of priority substances can be carried out effectively in the water phase and that the guidance should allow reporting this possibility. COM considers that trend monitoring under the EQS Directive should be undertaken in sediment and/or biota. COM and the relevant delegation agreed to hold a technical discussion on this matter.

WD recalled that Directive 2013/39/EU requires Member States to achieve good chemical status by 2021 for those existing substances for which a more stringent standard has been adopted. This would require that an assessment is included in the 2015 RBMP on the basis of the new EQSs.

In developing the reporting tools the Commission and the EEA will look at possibilities to provide immediate feedback to data providers, in the form of tables, graphs and/or maps, on the quality and some first simple products derived from the data as delivered. This will enable the user to refine the input data and correct mistakes before finally submitting the data.

11 Commission activities

11.1 EIP Water – latest development

WD took note of the presentation by COM on the latest developments under EIP Water, and in particular on the connections between EIP Action Group solutions and water policy implementation challenges.

WD took note of the organisation of the 2nd EIP Water conference (Barcelona, 5-6 Nov '14) and of COM invitation to Water Directors to the session connecting policy implementation challenges to Action Group solutions. A limited new call for Action Groups will be opened at conference.

11.2 European Citizens' Initiative – Right to Water – Commission response of March 2014

WD took note of the presentation by COM on its response to the European Citizens' Initiative Right to Water, and in particular of the relevant actions in relation to the EU water acquis and intentions of the Commission on how address them.

11.3 Implementation of water industry directives – latest developments

WD took note of the presentation by COM on the latest development on the water industry directives and supported the on-going activities presented.

11.4 Water Conference 2015

WD took note of and discussed the proposal by COM to organise a European Water Conference on 23-24 March 2015, focusing on the implementation of the WFD and the Floods Directive, as well as potentially covering links to other water, marine and nature policies. COM invited WD to indicate the potential interest to actively participate in the Conference with contributions on specific issues, as well as contributing with ideas on priority topics to cover.

13 Other issues

13.1 EU Court of Auditors report on Integration of EU water policy objectives and the CAP

WD took note of the European Court of Auditors (ECA) special report (No 4/2014) entitled "Integration of EU water policy objectives with the CAP and discussed COM and MS follow up to its recommendations.

13.2 International Water Conventions

WD took note of the information presented by COM and 3 MS expressed their views on the UN Watercourses Convention and its role in promoting trans-boundary water management both for the MS and the EU, as well as on how the EU should/could interface and collaborate with the UN Watercourses Convention. One MS pointed out that cooperation between the UN and UNECE Conventions would be useful but a mechanism should be found without unnecessary duplications. One MS stated that it does not intend to ratify the Convention for the time being and in case it was intended to propose EU ratification, the legal base should be checked because of impacts on quantitative water management.

ANNEX I

**INFORMAL MEETING OF EU WATER DIRECTORS AND
EU MARINE DIRECTORS**

FINAL AGENDA

(04/06/2014)

Thursday, 5 June 2014

	<p>PART 1: MARINE DIRECTORS MEETING <i>[with participation of the Executive Secretaries of OSPAR, HELCOM, BARCON, BSC, ICES and GFCM as guests and observers]</i></p>
09:00	<p>Welcome by Mr. K. Triantis, Special Secretary for Water of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment Energy and Climate Change and Greek Water and Marine Director</p>
09:10	<p>1. Transposition and implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) - overview by the Commission</p> <p>2. Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) activities for the MSFD</p> <p>2.1 <i>Overall progress on the CIS work programme and information on agreements made at MSCG (information by Commission) [DOC MD/2014-1/1 including Annex (Revised PoM recommendations)]</i></p> <p>2.2 <i>Commission report (Article 12 assessment)– outcome, results of regional meetings and follow up (presentation by Commission and discussion) [DOC MD/2014-1/2]</i></p>
COFFEE 10:30h – 11:00h	
11:00	<p>2. Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) activities for the MSFD</p> <p>2.3 <i>Strengthening the role of the Regional Sea Conventions and other international organisations – orientation debate with Executive Secretaries of OSPAR, HELCOM, BARCON, BSC, ICES, GFCM (5 min presentation by each) [DOC MD/2014-1/2, same as above]</i></p> <p><i>Discussion with Executive Secretaries of the Regional Sea Conventions</i></p>
12:00	<p>3. Commission activities regarding the MSFD</p> <p>3.1 <i>New Directive on Maritime Spatial Planning – link to MSFD implementation (presentation by Commission)</i></p> <p>3.2 <i>New Regulation on Invasive Alien Species – link to MSFD implementation (presentation by Commission)</i></p> <p>3.3 <i>Recent Commission activities with relevance to the marine environment, e.g. Outcome HOPE Conference, Blue Growth-related Communications (ocean energy, coastal and marine tourism, blue innovation), ... (information from the Commission)) [DOC MD/2014-1/3]</i></p>
12:15	<p>4. European and international issues</p> <p>4.1 <i>Council discussions on marine issues</i> <i>(including outcome of the informal Environmental Council discussion on "Sustainable Blue Growth" and preparation of Council Conclusions on Integrated Maritime Policy) (presentation from the Presidency) [DOC MD/2014-1/7]</i></p>

	4.2 International discussions on marine issues including Rio+20 follow up and UN World Oceans Assessment (information from the Presidency and the Commission)
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LUNCH 13:00h – 14:30h

	PART 2: JOINT MEETING WATER AND MARINE DIRECTORS
14:30	5. Common Implementation Strategies – developing the programme of measures and reporting (together) for water and marine environment policy <i>Presentation (by UK and Commission) followed by discussion on how to strengthen synergies between both implementation processes further</i> [DOC WMD/2014-1/4]
16:00	6. Financing opportunities for water and marine environment policy [DOC WMD/2014-1/5] <i>6.1 Update on the outcome and state-of-play of the key financing instruments, in particular ERDF, EARDF, EMFF, Horizon 2020, LIFE, including particular support projects (presentation by the Commission)</i> <i>6.2 Preparation of operational programmes, opportunities for water and marine policy - discussion</i>

COFFEE and FAMILY PHOTO 16:30 – 17:00

	PART 2: JOINT MEETING WATER AND MARINE DIRECTORS
17:00	6. Financing opportunities for water and marine environment policy (continued)
17:30	7. Water / Marine / Biodiversity and Nature policy and implementation – progress on joint agenda (information point) [DOC WMD/2014-1/6] <i>Presentation by Commission on follow up of joint Directors' meeting and SE intervention on outcome of Nature Directors' meeting (including implementation of Article 11 CFP)</i>
17:40	8. Sustainable Aquaculture – progress on joint guidance on MSFD and WFD (information point)
17:50	9. Other issues <i>a) Upcoming Presidencies (information by IT/LV/LU)</i> <i>b) New Swiss legislation on elimination of micropollutants in urban waste water – presentation CH</i> [DOC WMD/2014-1/8]

END OF DAY 1 –18:00h

Friday, 6 June 2014

9:00 – 12:15

	PART 3: WATER DIRECTORS' MEETING
9:00	Opening and welcome speeches
9:05	<p>10. WFD CIS</p> <p><i>Progress report on CIS (acknowledgment of written report) [DOC WD/2014-1/1]</i></p> <p><i>ECOSTAT work on Nutrients (presentation by the Commission, information point) [Presentation only]</i></p> <p><i>Finalisation of water scarcity & droughts indicators (endorsement of finalised indicators and way forward for future work) [DOC WD/2014-1/3]</i></p> <p><i>Reporting guidance (presentation by the Commission, discussion and endorsement) [DOC WD/2014-1/4]</i></p>
11:00	<p>11. Commission activities</p> <p><i>a. EIP Water – latest development (presentation by the Commission, information point) [Presentation only]</i></p> <p><i>b. European Citizens' Initiative – Right to Water – Commission response of March 2014 (presentation by Commission) [DOC WD/2014-1/6]</i></p> <p><i>c. Implementation of water industry directives – latest developments (presentation by the Commission) [DOC WD/2014-1/7]</i></p> <p><i>d. Water Conference 2015 (information from the Commission) [DOC WD/2014-1/8]</i></p>
12:00	<p>13. Other issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>EU Court of Auditors report on Integration of EU water policy objectives and the CAP [DOC WD/2014-1/9] (presentation by the Commission, information point)</i> • <i>International Water Conventions (written note from the Commission) [DOC WD/2014-1/10]</i>

12:15 – 13:00

	PART 4: Discussion and approval of the minutes of the Water and Marine Directors meetings
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Annex II: list of participants (see separate file)

Annex III

Common Implementation Strategies – developing and reporting the programme of measures (together) for water and marine environment policy

Agreed recommendations
(05/06/2014)

The Water Framework Directive (WFD-2000/60/EC) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD-2008/56/EC) include, as one of their key provisions, the preparation of a programme of measures or PoMs (Article 11 and 13 respectively). The Water and Marine Directors underlined that the principle need for close cooperation was already highlighted at previous meetings and, in particular the document Role of landlocked Member States and countries in relation to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) of June 2012 (presented at the meeting in Copenhagen), outline many of the key issues and should be considered in the further work.

During the meeting, the following recommendations were discussed and agreed:

1. Preparation of the programme of measures

Recommendation 1: Member States should aim to prepare their WFD and MSFD programmes of measures in a consistent and coherent or, at least, coordinated way in particular for land-based sources of pollution. Good Environmental Status of the marine environment should be considered as a driver for the design of the relevant land-based measures which should, if necessary, be made more stringent than would be required for good status under the WFD. The cost-effectiveness and other assessment for such measures which are relevant to both Directives should be done together, wherever possible.

2. Coordination between river basin and marine governance bodies

Recommendation 2: Member States should aim to coordinate the preparation of measures between the different governance bodies at the national and international level (i.e. river basin conventions and regional sea conventions).

3. Public participation and consultation process

Recommendation 3: Member States should aim to combine or, at least, coordinate the public consultation process in 2015 (for the WFD, MSFD and FRMD) with a clear communication strategy to explain how the different elements (and products) under the various pieces of legislation are linked to each other.

4. Reporting to the Commission

Recommendation 4: The Commission and the Member States should continue to work together to develop coherent and compatible reporting arrangements which allow for a similar type of assessment of the MS implementation. The aim is to ensure that the principle of “reporting once, use many, is implemented, in particular by reporting formats under both directives being uniform, identical, where possible, and interlinked, where necessary.

Annex IV: WFD reporting guidance (see separate file)