FUTURE CHALLENGES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EU WFD

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Content of the presentation

- WFD as a challenge for the MS’s and Community – role of the CIS
- Much has been done: The progress so far
- Much has to be done: The future challenges
- Agenda during the Finnish EU Presidency
WFD needs new approaches in water policy

- Integrated planning in the river basins
- Applying an ecosystem approach
- Setting environmental objectives
- Cross-sectoral cooperation
- Broad range of consultations and hearings
- Analysis of cost-effective measures
- Combining the use of different instruments
Timetable for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive

- Transposition into national legislation: 2003
- Characterization of RBD’s; pressures, impacts & economic analysis: 2004
- Establishment of monitoring network: 2006
- River basin management plans, including summary of programme(s) of measures: 2009
- Achievement of the environmental objectives: 2015
Role of the Common Implementation Strategy

- Supports the MS’s in the work towards RBMP’s
- Ensures coherence, comparability and quality
- Provides a platform for the development of guidelines, knowledge exchange
- Provides a platform for dialogue with stakeholders and NGO’s
- Links the WFD work with other water directives
- Integrates water policy into other policy areas, in particular, agriculture policy
- Follows and guides reporting

*Preference: fewer documents, more information exchange*
Initial priorities agreed by WD

Water Directors
Steering of implementation process
Chair: Presidency, Co-chair: Commission

Strategic Co-ordination Group
Co-ordination of work programme
Chair: Commission

Water scarcity and droughts

Note:
The indication on the lead is tentative and needs to be confirmed. Other co-leads are still invited.

Working Group A
"Ecological Status"
Lead: JRC, DE, UK

Working Group C
"Groundwater"
Lead: COM

Working Group D
"Reporting"
Lead: COM, FR

Working Group E
"Priority Substances"
Lead: COM

Working Group F
"Floods"
Lead: COM, FR

Working Groups – work programme and deliverables to be decided

"WFD and Agriculture"
Lead: FR, UK

"WFD and hydromorphology"
Lead: DE, UK

Chemical Monitoring
Lead: IT

Objectives/Exemptions
Lead: DK, COM

Other activities – structure, organisation, work programme and deliverables to be decided

Status: 02.06.2006
Regional Env. Administration

Regional Environment Centres
1 Uusimaa
2 Southwest Finland
3 Häme
4 Pirkanmaa
5 Southeast Finland
6 South Savo
7 North Savo
8 North Karelia
9 Central Finland
10 West Finland
11 North Ostrobothnia
12 Kainuu
13 Lapland

Environmental Permit Authorities
I Western Finland
II Eastern Finland
III Northern Finland

440 Municipalities
River Basin Districts (RBD) in Finland

- 5 national, 2 international and 1 independent

13 regional environment centres (REC) are the competent authorities, one REC within an RBD is appointed as the coordinating REC

Joint Border Water Commissions with Sweden, Norway and Russia
Progress so far
(situation in Finland)

- National transposition legislation mainly adopted
- Water districts established
- Cooperation groups covering different stakeholders set up
- First public information and consultation ongoing
- Criteria for the types of water bodies defined and the classification of ecological status ongoing
- Monitoring programmes under development
- Drafting decree on environmental objectives ongoing
- Guidelines for preparing RBMP’s accepted
- Guidelines for preparing programmes of measures ongoing
Guidance for RBMP planning in Finland

Guidance project completed in March ’06

- The content of RBMP`s and programme of measures:
  - Part A: Content of RBMP`s to be presented to the Finnish Government and European Commission
  - Part B: Background documents and information needed for the development of river basin management plans
- Description of the RBM planning process
- Development of data management serving RBM planning
- Methods and processes for stakeholder interaction and cooperation
- Proposals for research and development projects

A further project specifying RBMP’s is ongoing
Major Challenges in RBM planning

- Setting environmental objectives for the water bodies
  - Identifying areas not in a good quality state or at risk of deterioration
  - Identifying the sufficiency of basic measures and the need for supplementary measures
  - Analysing impacts on water quality, as well as costs and social impacts of the measures
  - Proportionality of the costs
  - Need for extending the deadline or even less stringent environmental objectives
- Cooperation with stakeholders to get their commitment
- Cooperation on the international river basin districts
**Priorities during the Finnish EU Presidency**

- Political agreement on the strategy and framework directive on the marine environment
- Environmental quality standards and pollution controls (priority hazardous substances), political discussion at the Dec. council
- Daughter directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution – conciliation procedure
- Meeting of the Water Directors in Dec.
- Baltic Sea problems and solutions were discussed at the informal Environmental Council in July in Turku
- Conference on the Baltic Sea and the European Marine Strategy, in Nov., in Helsinki
WFD is a major opportunity

- Establish realistic long-term water policies based on an integrated approach
- Improve the state of water bodies in the whole EU area
- Highlight the political importance of water resources at different political forums
- Increase the knowledge on water bodies
- Establish partnerships and increase commitments
- Produce knowledge on good practices and innovations which can be introduced into different international processes
- Improve networking an interdisciplinary approaches
- How to continue the work set in motion at this workshop?