



National Administration
"APELE ROMANE"



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
Department of Waters, Forests and Fishery



The National Institute of Hydrology
and Water Management

EUROPE-INBO 2014

Roundtable 1. Preparation of WFD 2nd Management Plans (2016-2021)

Integration of water quantity issues; adaptation to climate change; better integration with other EU Directives (Flood and Marine Strategy) and with other sectoral policies

**Reporting on the presentations and
working groups discussions**



Roundtable Programme

- * Co-chairs:

- * Mr. Elena TUCHIU (Romania)

- * Mr. Claude MIQUEU (France)

- * Co- reporters

- * Mr. Ramiro MARTINEZ (REMOC)

- * Mr. Jean-Marie WAUTHIER (Belgium)

* Panellists:

- * Ms. Maria GHINI, Special Secretariat for Water, Greece
- * Mr. Nicolas ROUYER, Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development, France
- * Ms. Françoise GOULARD, Adour-Garonne Water Agency, France
- * Ph.D. Andrej ABRAMIĆ, European Commission - Joint Research Centre
- * Dr. Cristina SANDU, Danube Sturgeon Task Force
- * Ms. Irina VALARIÉ, Hérault District, France
- * Mr. Abdurrahman ULUIRMAK, Ministry of Forestry and Water Affairs, General Directorate for Water Management, Turkey
- * Mr. Salah BEL MATRIK, Bouregreg and Chaouia Hydraulic basins Agency, Morocco

Main outcomes and recommendations

GENERAL CONCLUSION: EU Water regulations and policies are among the most advanced and shape water management organization, obviously in Member States and candidate countries but also in the neighbouring countries.

Quantitative issues are having now more and more importance, be it for satisfying the needs of various sectors in a context of already noticed negative climate change effects, or also for ensuring support to water quality aspects (in areas including –but not limited to, neighbouring countries ; e.g. Morocco, Turkey).

The coordination between EU Directives is to be improved, if needed by already thinking of and promoting a new regulation framework on the longer term (after the current directives deadlines).

Main outcomes and recommendations

ISSUES OF COORDINATION

*Coordination between water and water related-institutions:

- * In order to ensure a **resources efficient approach**, making the most of the means available, it is crucial to **improve coordination between relevant administrations** (water and environment, but also agriculture, industry, urban planning, etc. ; see example from Turkey) following the subsidiarity principle: at the **scale most relevant** (European, National, Regional and Local) **for a given goal** (regulation, strategy, programming, consultation, implementation ; see example from the Hérault district supervising the production of local water management plans –SAGE). River Basin Organizations of course have a central role to play.

*Coordination in the implementation of water and water-related policies:

- * It is for instance required **in the management plan processes** of, at least, **water-related directives** (especially for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the Flood Directive and the WFD). Such coordination shouldn't be limited to the sheer definition of policy approach. In the last phase of preparation of the WFD 2nd River Basin Management Plans, it also appears obvious we need to ensure **technical coordination regarding the objectives, means and content of the Management Plans and Programme of Measures**. In terms of means, one good example is the EU transboundary spatial data system **INSPIRE**.

*Recommendations:

- * Although little resources are needed to improve coordination, which mainly requires communication and cooperation, it remains, in practice, hard to achieve. Therefore, it is recommended to hold regular **joint meetings between the Water, Marine Environment and Biodiversity Managers at the different relevant scales**.

Main outcomes and recommendations

ISSUES OF WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT

*Achievement of good status objective:

- * WFD implementation has led to significant efforts and investments for improvement of environmental status of aquatic bodies. Improvements were noticed, sometime not up to our expectations.
- * However, wo principles make it hard to communicate on achievements and to maintain strong commitment of decision makers: **“one out all out principle”** (one criteria out of dozens doesn't meet standards and game is over) and the development of **ever stricter water quality assessment methodologies** (e.g. France: 70% of its water bodies in good status according to 1970's standards down to 20% according to 2000's standards).

Main outcomes and recommendations

ISSUES OF WATER QUANTITY MANAGEMENT (1/2)

*Gradual integration of water quantity management

- * There are interdependencies between achievements of both environmental and quantitative objectives. But this has been acknowledged rather late in EU water policy and regulations.
- * However, there has been **significant progress in the last few years in the integration of quantitative issues in WFD management plans and tools**, in particular since 2012, with the Blueprint and the Water Scarcity and Drought Policy review (e.g. production of guidance documents on E-flows or on water accounts under the Common Implementation Strategy). Member States established water scarcity and drought management plans on the basis of these guidelines (presentation from Special Secretariat for Water, Greece). Some of them have started prospective studies on the impacts of climate change in their Basin, which can help elaborating strategies and no-regret measures on the basis of different scenarii (presentation from Adour-Garonne Water Agency, France).
- * Since they are now facing impacts of climate change on drought/floods, **Northern Europe countries finally share the concerns expressed by Southern Europe countries** regarding the need of policies and actions on water quantity management.

Main outcomes and recommendations

ISSUES OF WATER QUANTITY MANAGEMENT (2/2)

*Remaining issues:

- * Some rules of EU regulations related to water quality are often seen as prohibiting measures of quantitative management, such as the construction of reservoir-dams. Of course, such measures can still be implemented thanks to exemptions planned in article 4.7 of the WFD. **There may be a need for both more flexibility and more positivity on interlinkages between water quality and quantity issues** (for instance, dilution may be a solution to pollution). Quality and quantity objectives will not be achieved if not jointly addressed.
- * New regulations are (rightfully) considered unnecessary, but there is still a need to produce and disseminate **guidelines on the development of ecologically sound infrastructure and on the development of unconventional water resources** (desalination, reuse, water saving devices).