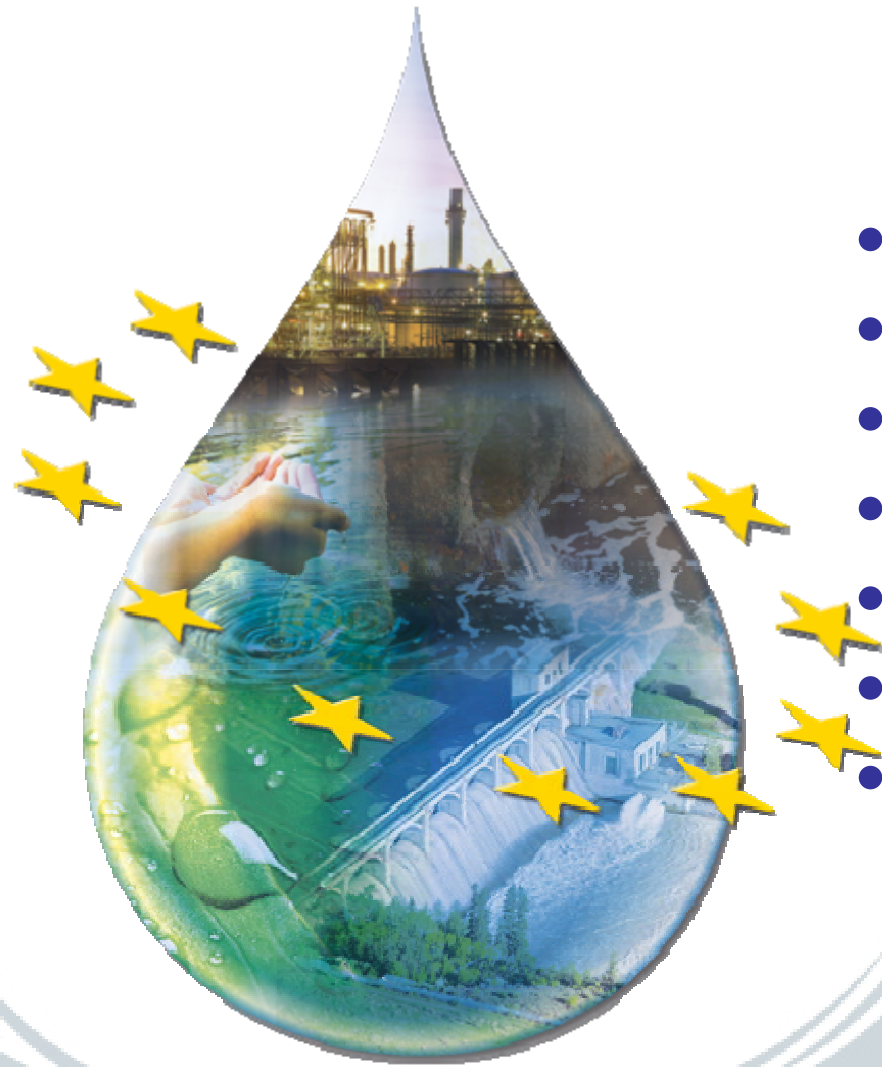


Challenges the years ahead

*Maria Brättemark, WFD Team,
Unit for "Protection of Water and the Marine
Environment" DG ENV.D.2,
European Commission*



- **Expectations**
- **Delivery**
- **Compliance**
- **Achieving objectives**
- **Public perceptions**
- **A changing environment**
- **Working together**

What do we expect the WFD to bring?

Improved governance

Working together for sustainable water management

Transparent decisionmaking

Integrated river basin management

Transparent decision making to balance environmental protection and economic development

Technical challenges

Comprehensive assessment of water environment and socio-economic needs

Programme of measures

Abandoning unsustainable practices and restoring damage

Improving the environment in the most cost-effective way



Working together for sustainable water management

Public and stakeholder active participation

...that really makes a difference

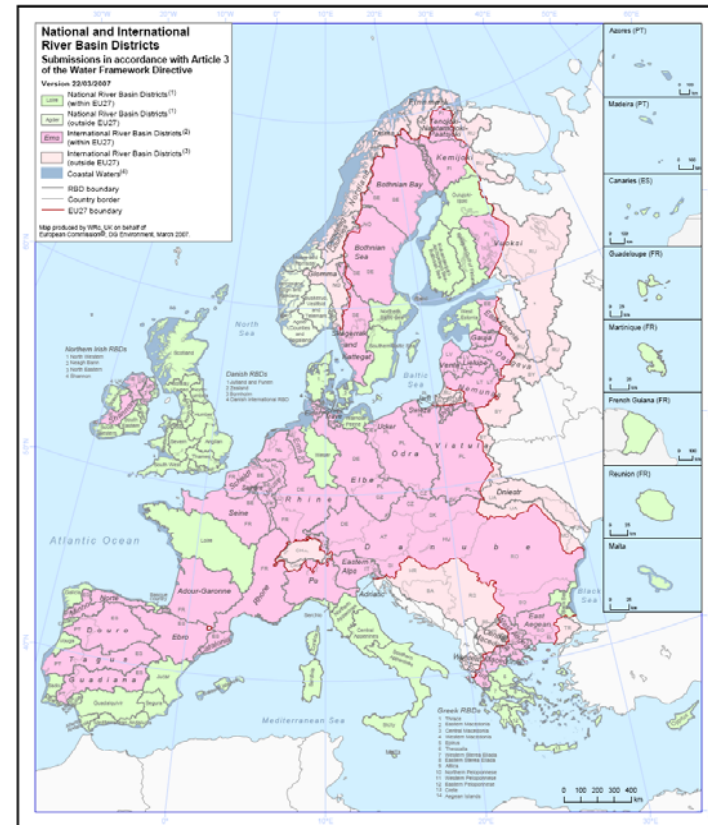
Cooperation among administrations (national, regional, local)

Integrated management of drivers, pressures and impacts

International cooperation

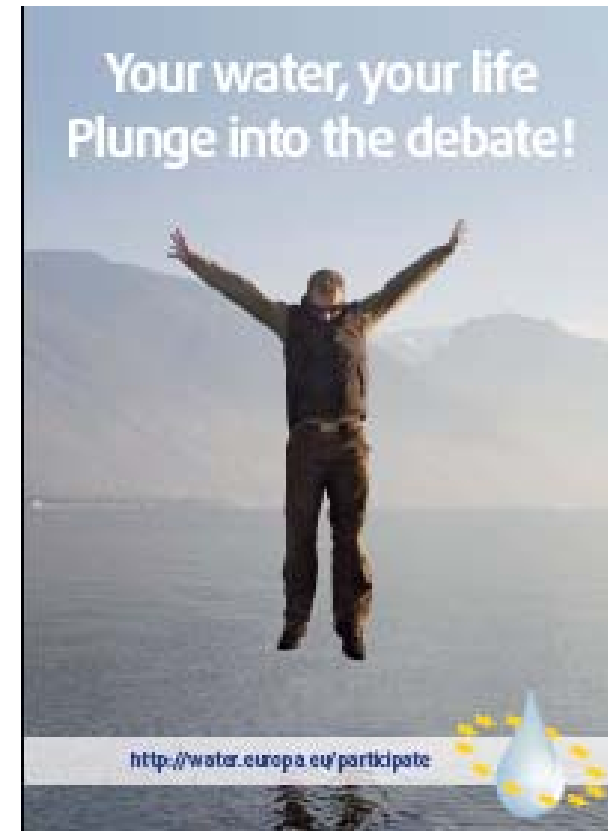
Joint responsibility, joint coordinated action

Integration of sectoral policies and existing directives



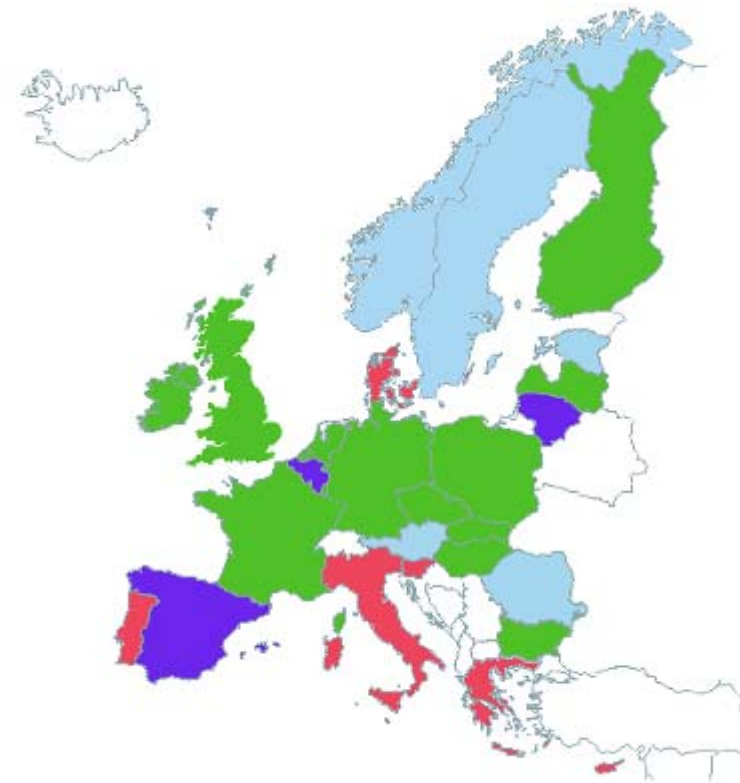
Challenge 1 : Delivery

- **Establishment of River Basin Management Plans + reporting**
- **Serious delays in consultations in some Member States - knock-on effect on the RBMP deadline 22.12.2009...**
- **Expect legal challenges if requirements on public consultation not respected...**



Consultations on draft river basin management plans

- On time?
 - 11 Member States finished: FI, IE, UK, NL, DE, PL, CZ, SK, FR, LV
 - 5 Member States consultations still ongoing : AT, EE, HU, RO, SW.
 - Partial consultation : BE (3 out of 4), ES (1 out of 24), LT (1 out of 4)
 - Not yet started ! CY, DK, EL, IT, MT, PT, SI



- Complete? Important gaps ?

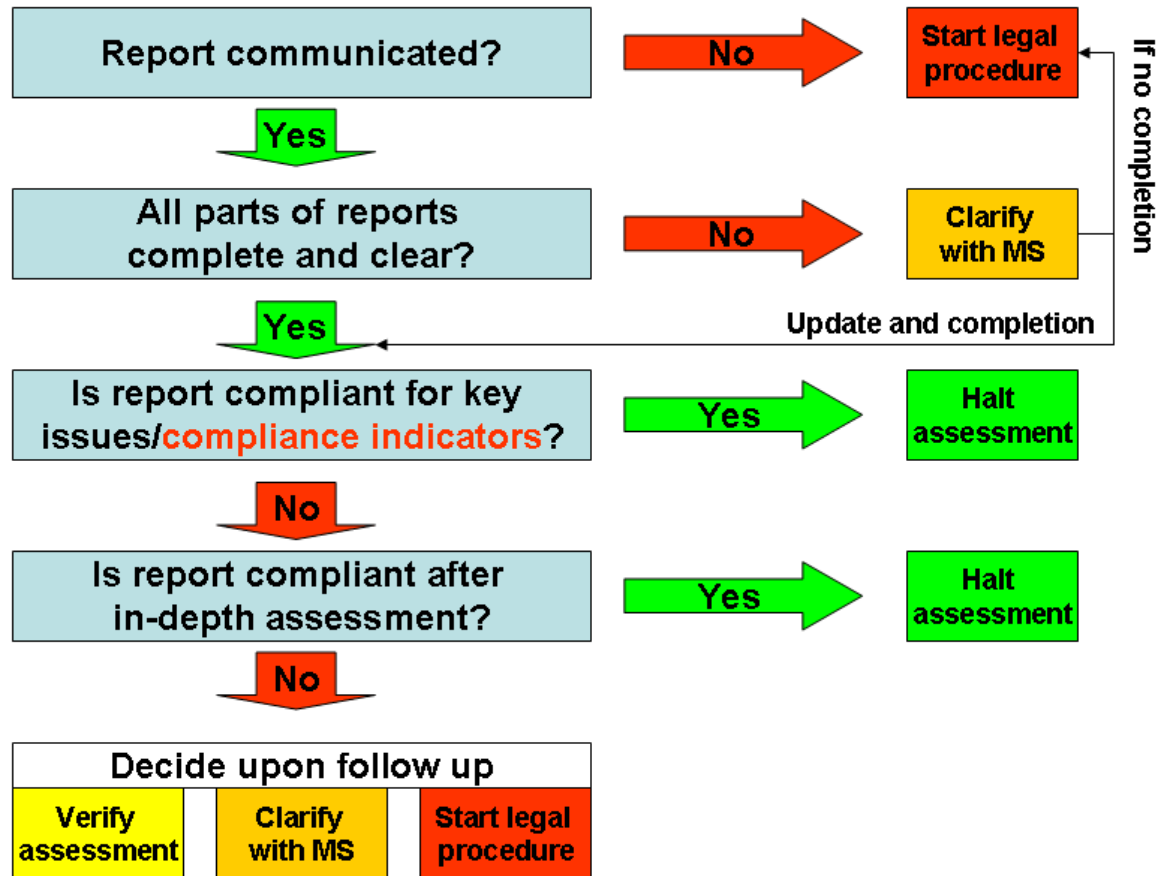


Challenge 2 : Compliance

- **Conformity of transposition** : 20 cases opened, a few more in the pipeline
 - Progress in 2009 – great effort shown in many Member States to respond to concerns !
 - 20 Non-Communication cases on Groundwater launched – 10 still missing !
- **Bad application so far** :
 - Still open cases on art 3(ES) and article 8(EL, MT)
 - Serious concerns in many Member States of quality and completeness of Monitoring networks !
- **Checking of River Basin Management Plans** : key challenge for DG ENV



Document on compliance checking WD meeting Paris December 2008



*“The Commission believes this general approach is still valid and useful. However, some consideration has to be given to the timing of the exercise. **The preparation phase (e.g. article 5 analysis) has already identified some issues that will merit a detailed analysis in any case.** Experience from previous compliance checking shows that, if the three stages are taken one after the other, two years will not be enough to perform in-depth assessments of key issues. **The Commission intends to perform in-depth analysis on a number of key issues in parallel to the screening exercise.**”*



Some candidate key issues for in-depth assessments

- Environmental objectives and exemptions
- Designation of heavily modified water bodies
- Classification of ecological status and potential
- Measures related to agriculture
- Measures related to hydromorphology
- Measures related to chemical pollution
- Measures related to article 9 (water pricing policies)
- Water scarcity and droughts

(Document on compliance checking WD meeting Paris December 2008)



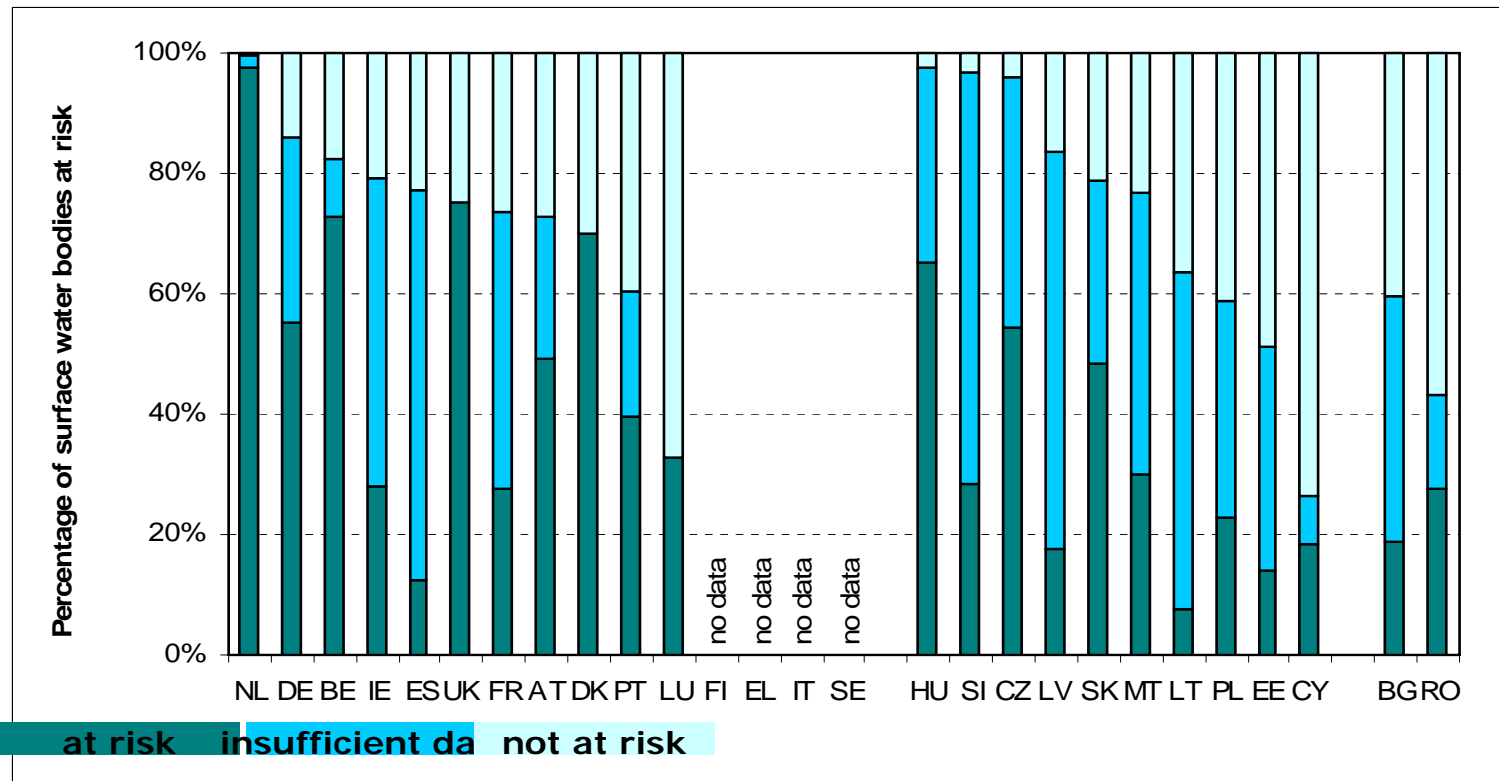
Challenge 3 : Achieving the objectives

- Good chemical, ecological and quantitative status by 2015 !
- Non-deterioration !
- Measures to be operational by 2012 at the latest...

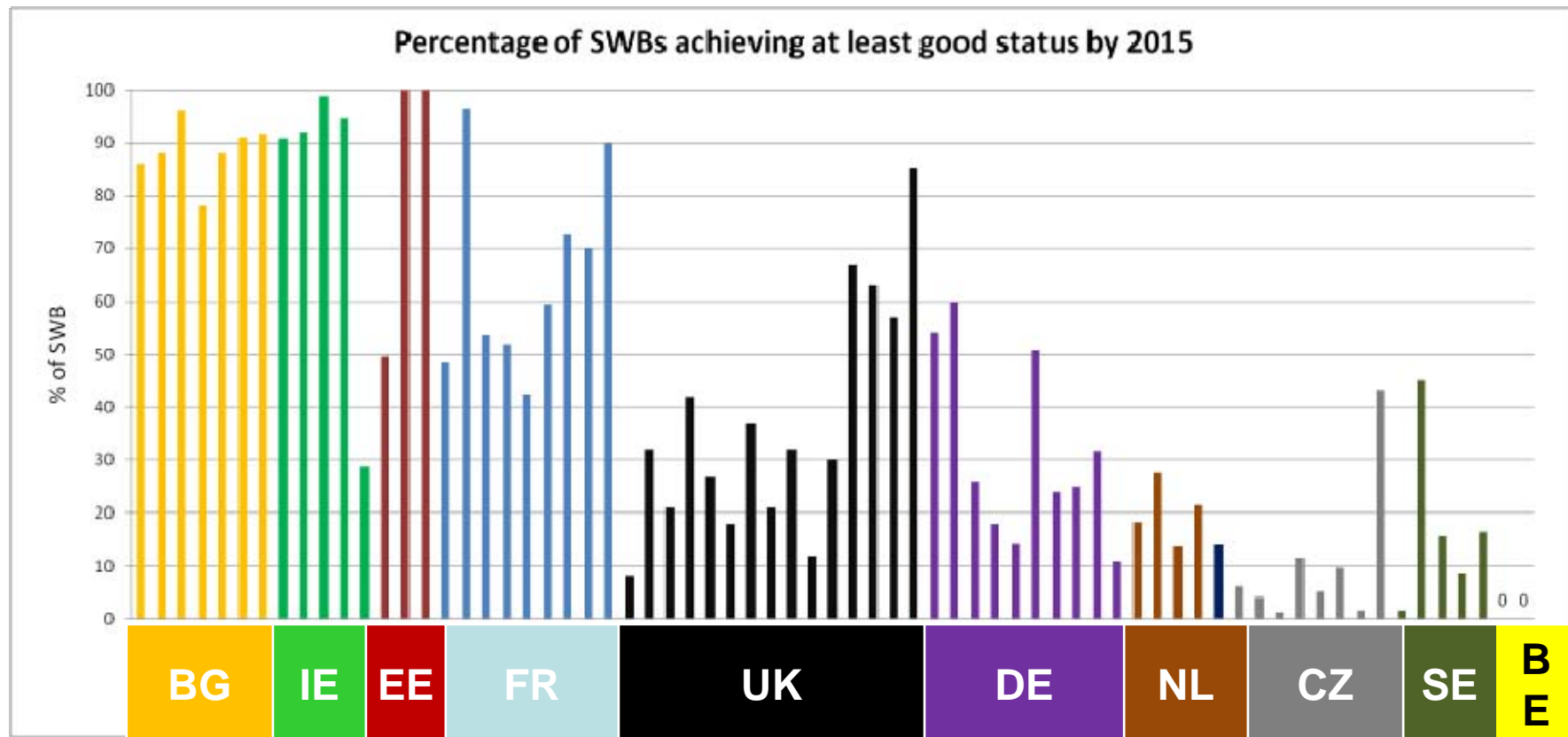


Achieving the objectives

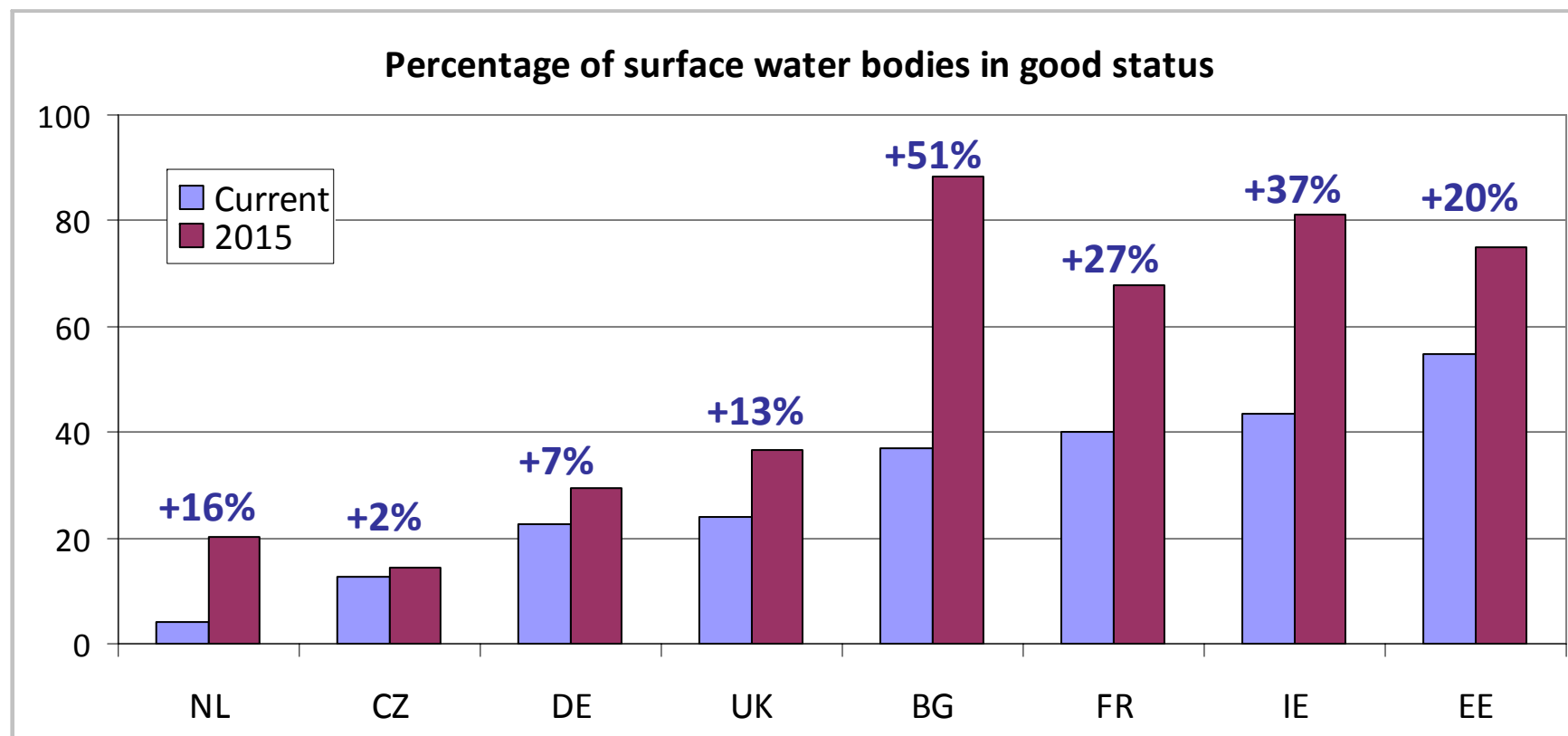
SWB at risk in 2004



SWB achieving at least good status in 2015



State of play and level of ambition



Average of percentages for national river basin districts. DE based on data from 5 river basin districts only.

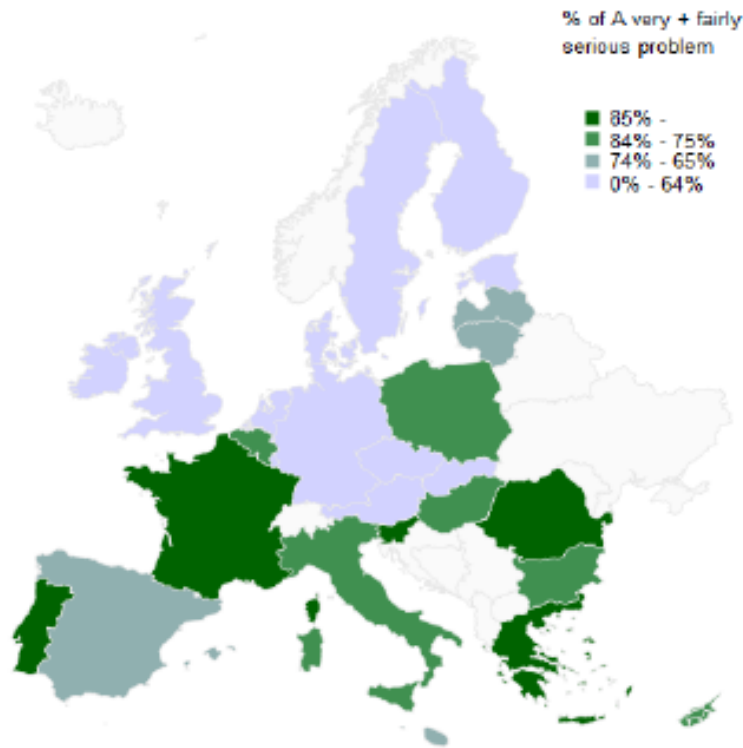


Challenge 4 : Public perceptions

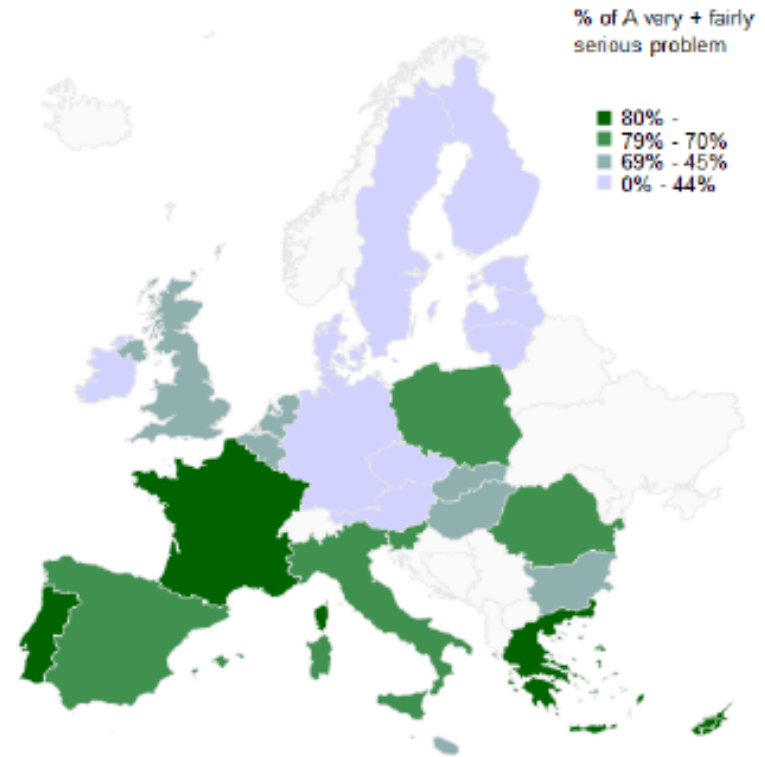
(Eurobarometer, March 2009)

How serious is the problem of water quantity in your country?

How serious is the problem of water quality in your country?



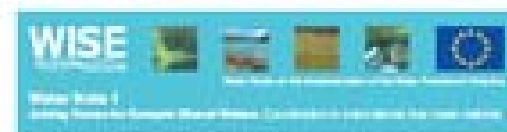
Water Quantity



Water Quality



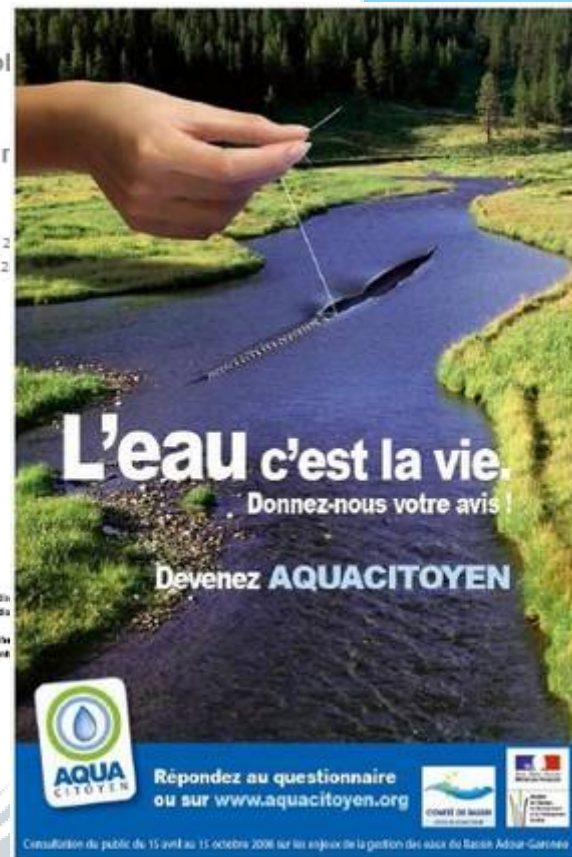
Communication



Flash Eurobarometer
on water
Analytical report

Fieldwork: January 2008
Publication: March 2008

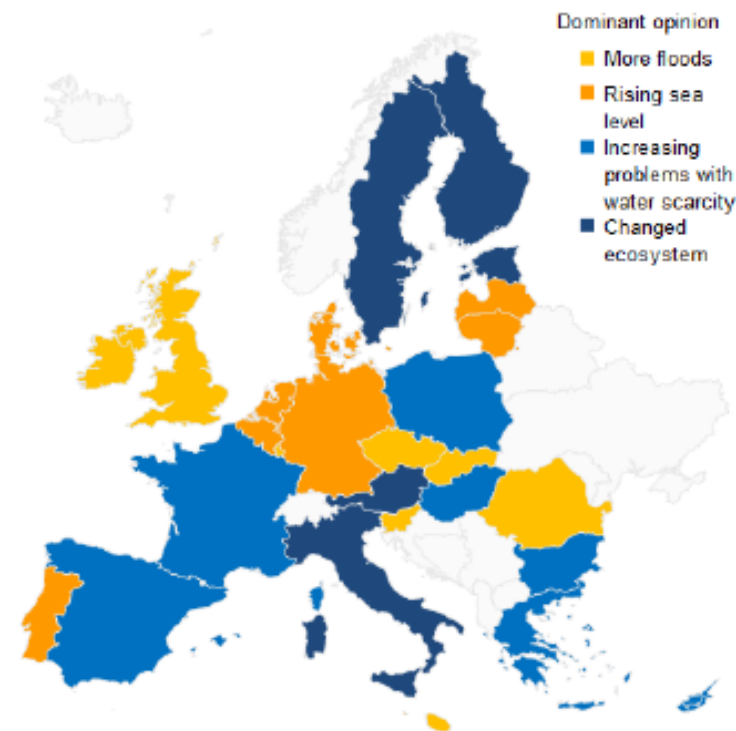
This survey was requested by the DG
by Directorate General Communications
This document does not represent the
The interpretations and opinions contained



Challenge 5 : A changing environment

- Mitigating key pressures : agriculture, energy, industry... making integrated river basin management a reality !
- Implementation of new Directives : **Floods & Marine**
- Climate change
 - **Adaptation & Mitigation**
 - **Water Scarcity & Droughts strategy**
- Improving knowledge gaps
- Facing difficult economic situations
- Preparing for the next round of RBMP...

Most important impact on climate change on the status of water



Challenge 6 : Working together

- **Common Implementation Strategy 2010-2012**
 - **5th generation work programme**
- **Continued work on ecological status, chemical status, groundwater, floods, reporting...**
- **New activities on biodiversity, economics ?**
 - **Give input into the discussion – to be agreed by Water Directors in Malmö end of the year**





Thank you for your attention !
More on : water.europa.eu