



Developments in EU water policy: Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources

Protection of Water Resources Unit
Directorate General for Environment
European Commission

Presented by: Elif Ceyda TORCU
Sector Manager for Environment and Sustainable Development
Delegation of the European Union to Turkey



Main developments

- ***Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources***
 - Adopted by the EC on 14 November 2012
 - Council conclusions adopted on 17 December 2012
 - Implementation as of 1 January 2013
- ***Review of River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) reported by MSs to EC***



Blueprint policy baseline

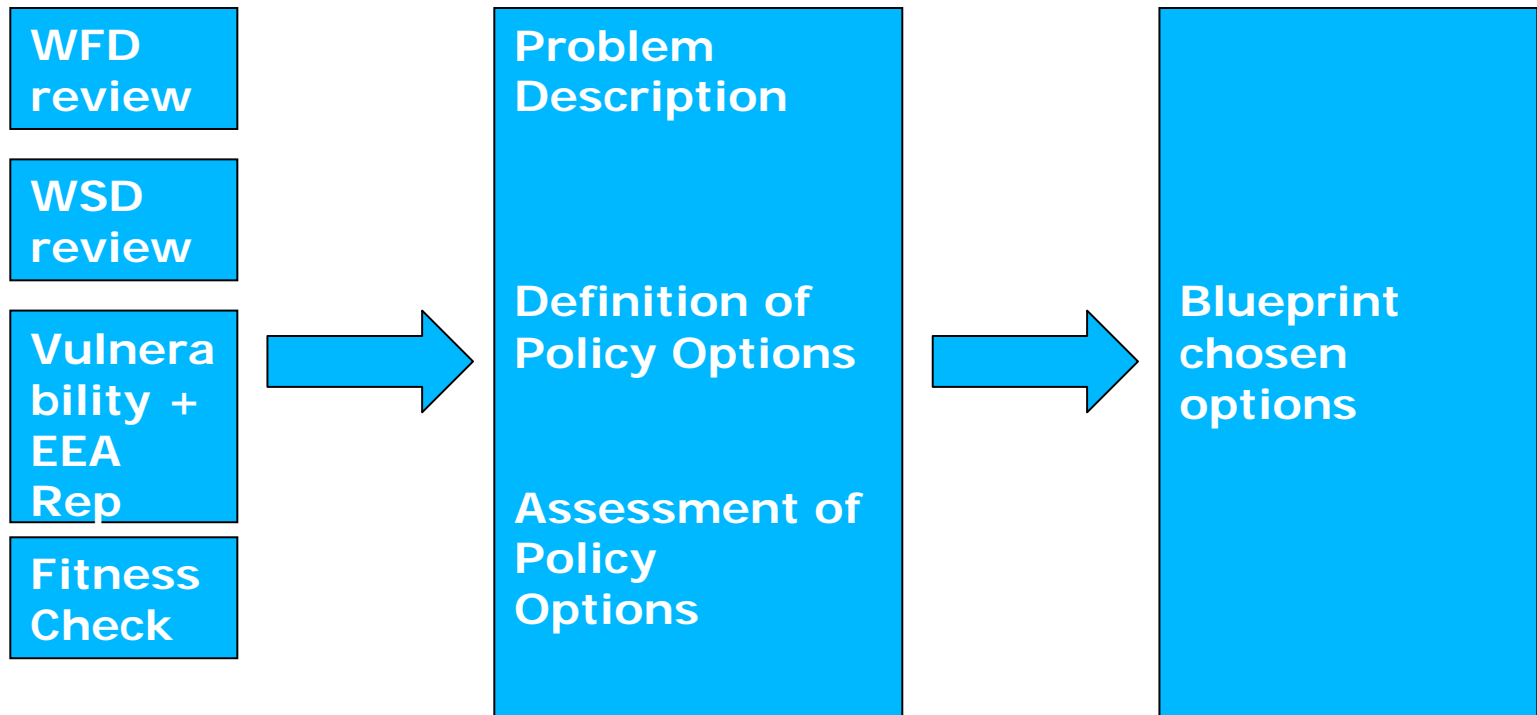
- Review of WFD implementation (RBMPs)
- Review of Water Scarcity and Droughts policy implementation
- Review of water resources vulnerability
- Fitness Check of EU fresh water policy
- EEA reports & other studies



Blueprint objectives

- **Goal**
 - Ensure sustainability of all activities that impact on water, thereby securing the availability of good-quality water for sustainable and equitable water use
- **Objectives (something better, more and new)**
 - Better implementation
 - More integration
 - Few new legal proposals to complete current framework

Blueprint impact assessment I





Blueprint impact assessment II

- **Basic considerations:**
 - ✓ Full ex-post WFD review not appropriate in 2012
 - ✓ No “one size fits all” solution – need for a toolbox
- **4 main problem categories in policy implementation:**
 - Insufficient use of economic instruments
 - Lack of support for specific measures
 - Poor governance
 - Knowledge gaps
- **12 priority problems identified under the above 4 categories**
- **57 policy options included in public consultation document**



Blueprint impact assessment III

12 priority problems

- 1. Lack of water pricing**
- 2. Lack of metering**
- 3. Lack of labeling of traded goods**
- 4. Land use/Agricultural impacts (NWRM)**
- 5. Inefficiency in buildings/appliances**
- 6. Inefficient water infrastructure**
- 7. Lack of water re-use**
- 8. Governance**
- 9. Target setting**
- 10. Drought management**
- 11. Understanding costs and benefits**
- 12. Knowledge base**



Blueprint policy options

- *Enforcement of legislation will be continued*
- *Early action is needed for uptake in 2015 RBMPs*
- *New policy options are categorised as:*
 - Voluntary options
 - Regulatory options
 - Conditionality
 - Funding priority

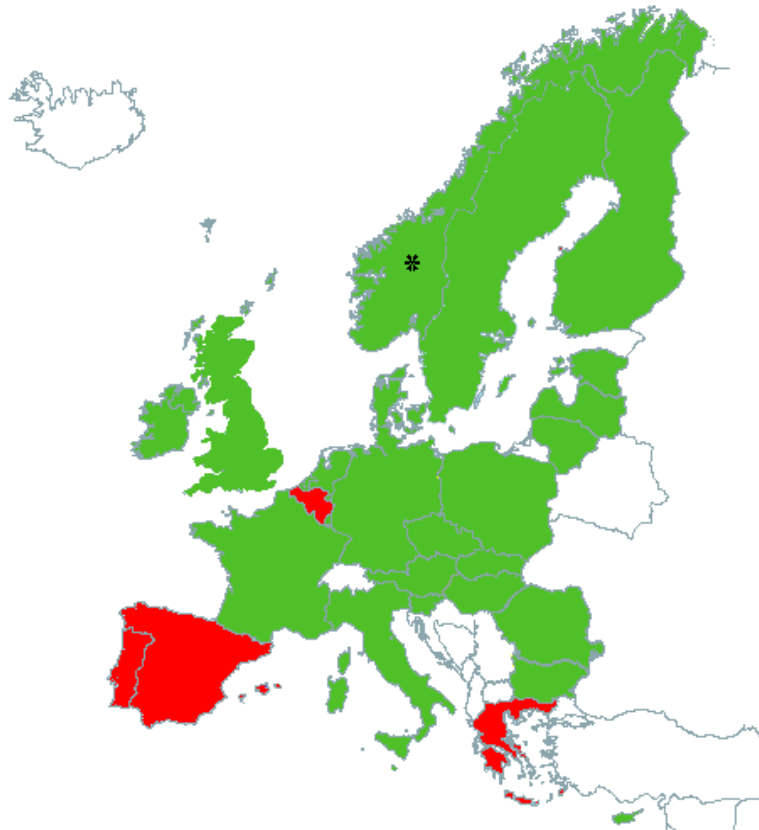


Blueprint objectives	Voluntary	Regulation	Conditionality	Funding
Efficiency incentive water pricing	CIS Guidance on trading schemes by 2014	Enforcement of Art. 9 WFD (ongoing)	Ex-ante conditions under RD&C policy funds 2014	
Metering take up		Enforcement of Art. 9 WFD (ongoing)		
Water use reduction in agriculture			Precondition for some irrigation projects under RD as of 2014	
Reduction of illegal abstraction/impoundments	Apply GMES as of 2013	Possible EU initiative on inspections - 2013	Cross-compliance under CAP	
Awareness of water consumption	Support voluntary labeling & certific. schemes			
Maximisation of the use of NWRM (Green Infr.)	CIS Guidance by 2014		Greening of CAP pillar I as of 2014	S&C Funds & EIB loans
Efficient water appliances in buildings	EU Ecolabel & GPP criteria 2013	Eco-design Working Plan in 2012		
Reduction of leakages	Best practice/tools on SELL in 2013			S&C Funds & EIB loans
Maximisation of water reuse		Possible Regulation in 2015		S&C Funds & EIB loans
Improvement of governance	Peer review of RBMPs (2013 – 2016)			



Blueprint objectives	Voluntary	Regulation	Conditionality	Funding
Implementation of water accounts, e-flows & target setting	CIS Guidance on WAs / E-flows & Target setting by 2014			
Reduction of flood risk	Through Green Infr. European Flood Awareness System	Flood Risk Management Plans by 2015		
Reduction of drought risk	Through Green Infr. European Flood EDO in 2013-2014	Enforcement of WFD requirements (ongoing)		
Better calculation of costs and benefits	CIS Guidance by 2014			
Better knowledge base	Upgrading WISE by 2015			
Support to developing countries				
Tackling pollution	Report on pharmaceuticals & the environment 2013	Targeted enforcement of WFD, EQS/PSD, NID, UWWTD, IED ...		
Cross-cutting	EIPs on Water and Agri as of 2013	Overall enforcement of WFD, EQS/PSD, NID, UWWTD, IED	Possible European Semester Recomm. 2013	CAP, S&C Funds & EIB loans

Status of adoption of WFD plans



GREEN - River Basin
Management Plans
adopted!

RED – consultations not
started, ongoing or
finalised but plans not
adopted nor reported to
EC

Assessment of River Basin Management Plans: Some general findings

- ***A lot of effort put into preparation of the plans and impressive knowledge improvement***
- ***High uptake of the common framework and common language on water management provided by the WFD***
- ***Integration of ecological perspective into water management***
- ***Enhancement of international cooperation***
- ***Public participation, stakeholder involvement***
- ***4 Member States yet to submit plans***
- ***Low ambition in many of the plans.***
- ***Uncompleted setting of measures***
- ***Lack of comparability in some areas (e.g. chemical status!)***
- ***Little understanding of aligning water management practices and environment protection (e.g. definition of exemptions)***
- ***Insufficient consideration of water pricing and definition of costs***



Water bodies in good status in 2009 and 2015: What progress expected?

	Nb of MS	Nb of water bodies	% Water bodies in good status or potential 2009	% Water bodies in good status or potential 2015	Progress 2009-2015 in %
Ecological status of surface waters	21	82684	43	53	10
Chemical status of surface waters	Information unclear to establish the 2009 baseline				
Quantitative status of groundwater	24	12022 (5197)	89 (85)	96 (92)	7 (7)
Chemical status of groundwater ¹³	24⁷⁷	12022 (5197)	83 (68)	89 (77)	6 (9)



Follow up

- ***Ensuring correct implementation of WFD in first and second RBMP period (Follow up RBMP assessment)***
 - Follow up bilaterally
 - Possible enforcement action
 - Common Implementation Strategy (delivery of **Blueprint** policy options)
 - Possible new legislative initiatives
- ***Assessment of PoM and integration of EU Water Directives***
- ***2019 review WFD***



The Blueprint package

- **Blueprint Communication COM(2012)673+ Impact Assessment SWD(2012) 381 & 382**
- **Report on River Basin Management Plans COM(2012)670**
- **Commission Staff Working Document, European Overview on River Basin Management Plans, Volumes 1 and 2 SWD(2012) 379**
- **Commission Staff Working Document, River Basin Management Plans, Volumes 3 to 30 (All Member States + Norway) SWD(2012) 379**
- **Communication on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Drought Policy COM(2012)672 + accompanying Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2012)380**
- **Fitness Check SWD (2012)393**



Thank you for your attention !

All docs available at

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm