



A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources

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Blueprint and EU2020

- *Clean water is part of the natural capital on which health, well-being, and our economy depend*
- *The Blueprint contributes to EU2020 and growth and jobs by reinforcing the natural capital foundation of our society*
- *The Blueprint is the milestone for water on the Roadmap for a Resource Efficient Europe*



Blueprint environmental baseline

- *Water status:*
 - The picture presented by the EEA State of Water report is very clear
 - Climate change, economic and demographic developments are likely to make the achievement of the good status objective more difficult
 - If early action is not taken, later action will be more complex and costly



Blueprint policy baseline: where we are

- *Questions to be addressed:*
 - What are the obstacles that hamper action to safeguard Europe's water resources?
 - Do we need to change legislation/policy to address these problems?
- *To answer, we reviewed current EU freshwater legislation and policies, as well as their implementation by the MS*



Blueprint policy baseline: where we are

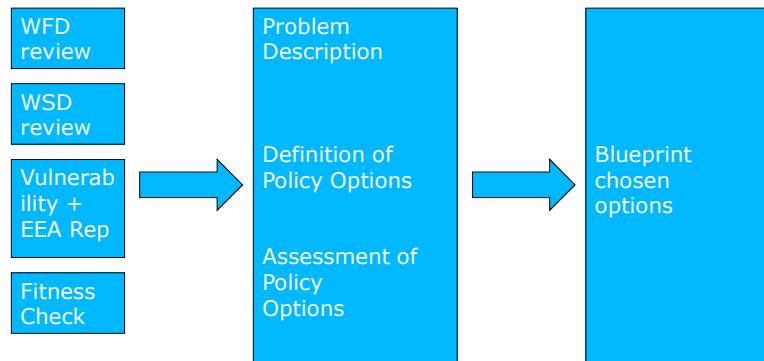
- Review of Water Framework Directive implementation (RBMPs)
- Review Water Scarcity and Droughts policy implementation
- Review of water resources vulnerability
- Fitness Check of fresh water policy
- EEA reports & other studies



Blueprint objectives: where we want to be

- *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

- **Consultation MS and stakeholders**
- **European Parliament Report July 2012**
- **Hydro-economic modelling**



Blueprint impact assessment III

- *4 main problem categories in policy implementation:*
 - **Insufficient use of economic instruments**
 - **Lack of support for specific measures**
 - **Poor governance**
 - **Knowledge gaps**



Blueprint impact assessment IV

- Basic considerations:
 - Full ex-post WFD review not appropriate in 2012
 - No "one size fits all" solution – need for a toolbox
- 12 priority problems identified under the above 4 categories
- 57 policy options included in public consultation document



Blueprint impact assessment V 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**



Land use and ecological status

- Guidance on Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)
- Green CAP pillar I to support NWRM (ecological focus areas)
- Use Structural & Cohesion Funds & EIB loans to support NWRM
- Apply GMES services to detect illegal abstraction
- Guidance on ecological flow and water accounts



Chemical status and pollution I

- Water Framework Directive: Enforce in particular monitoring requirements.
- Nitrates Directive: Extend nitrate vulnerable zones and reinforcing action programmes.
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive:
 - Improve compliance rates on waste water treatment through long-term investment planning (including EU funds and EIB loans).
 - Prepare implementation plans



Chemical status and pollution II

- Industrial Emissions Directive: Ensure that industrial emissions permits provide for Emission Limit Values (ELVs) that are in line with Best Available Techniques (BAT) and take into account relevant water objectives
- Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides: add to cross-compliance under CAP.
- Environmental Quality Standards Directive: Adopt the Commission's proposal for amendments
- Pharmaceuticals: Present a report on pharmaceuticals and the environment



Water efficiency I

- Enforce water pricing/cost-recovery obligations under the WFD, including metering when relevant
- Make water pricing/cost recovery an ex ante condition under the Rural Development and Cohesion policy funds
- Develop CIS Guidance on trading schemes and on a cost/benefit assessment
- Make water use reduction a pre-condition for some irrigation projects under Rural Development



Water Efficiency II

- Develop CIS Guidance on water accounts (and ecological flow)
- Develop CIS Guidance on target-setting
- Include water-related products in the Eco-design Working Plan.
- Develop voluntary EU Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement criteria for water related products
- Spread best practices/tools to achieve a sustainable economic leakage level.



Vulnerability I

- Develop CIS Guidance on Natural Water Retention Measures (Green Infrastructure)
- Green CAP pillar I to support Natural Water Retention Measures (through ecological focus areas)
- Use Structural & Cohesion Funds & EIB loans to support Natural Water Retention Measures
- Enforce WFD requirements relevant to drought risk management



Vulnerability II

- Develop Flood Risk Management Plans
- Propose (regulatory) instrument on standards for water re-use
- Further develop the European Drought Observatory



Cross-Cutting

- Implement the Innovation Partnerships on Water and on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability
- Upgrade WISE
- Streamline reporting & statistics requirements
- Complete the hydro-economic model.
- Continue CIS work on the science-policy interface
- Set up and use a CIS peer review system for RBMPs



Cross-Cutting

- Add Water Framework Directive requirements to cross-compliance under CAP
- Strengthening inspections and surveillance requirements
- Look into country-specific recommendations on water in the European Semester
- Support awareness-raising tools on water consumption (e.g. voluntary labelling & certification schemes)



Global Aspects

- Support access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services
- Support integrated sustainable water resource management



Blueprint Timetable

- **Blueprint launch conference 26-27 November 2012, Nicosia**
- **Council Conclusions 17 December 2012**
- **European Parliament.....**



Delivery of Policy Options

Success of Blueprint depends on willingness and action by MS to involve stakeholders and improve implementation of existing legislation

- **Common Implementation Strategy to facilitate early implementation of Blueprint proposals**
- **Enforcement through infringements where necessary**
- **Possible new legislative initiatives**



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