

Policy Options for the Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters

Introductory questions	
Your name -open reply-(optional)	Dr. Ulrich Oehmichen
Please select your country of residence -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Germany
What organisation do you represent? -open reply-(compulsory)	agw-water board association
Please choose from the following categories the most relevant to the organisation you represent. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	River Basin Authority or other water manager
Overview	
<p><i>Assessment of the first round of river basin management plans</i></p> <p>The first round of river basin management plans (RBMPs) has been a central element in implementation of the Water Framework Directive. A key common goal for this first round of RBMPs was to achieve good water status. However, the approaches across Member States vary greatly.</p> <p>An analytical review of the RBMPs is underway. We would also like to hear from EU citizens and organisations concerning the results of this first planning exercise.</p> <p>What do you see as the five most important achievements seen in the preparation of the first round of RBMPs? -open reply-(optional)</p> <p>From our point of view the most important achievement of the first round of the RBMPs is the awareness that river basin management is the right instrument to implement the WFD and to enhance cooperation at all levels.</p> <p>What do you see as the five most important problems seen in the preparation of the first round of RBMPs? -open reply-(optional)</p> <p>The amendment of the river structure face problems with the authorities for the protection and preservation of ancient monuments. We state a conflict regarding the expansion of energy-crop-growing on the one hand and the necessity to buy land properties needed for the implementation of important measures.</p>	
Tools to improve water management	
Develop guidance through a working group under the WFD Common Implementation Strategy to support the use of water accounting and E-Flows at river basin level (including specific tests in pilot river basins); to agree a methodology for efficiency target setting at river basin level; and to update reporting to the EC to include E-Flows and river flows. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Develop a Recommendation on the use of water accounting, efficiency target setting and environmental flows at river basin level and an indicative EU water efficiency target. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No

Specific recommendations are considered for Member States on water accounting, efficiency target setting and environmental flows at river basin level in the context of the European Annual Growth Survey for the European Semester. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Adopt technical annexes to the WFD on E-Flows that will require water accounting for river basins; specify the protocol for establishing E-Flows, making the use of the E-Flows definition compulsory in all water stressed river basins; and require the setting up of water efficiency targets on the basis of an agreed methodology. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Other -open reply-(optional)	
We do not agree with the problem you state in no. 1. In Germany water-balancing and adequate water allocation is not poorly implemented at river basin level. Water in Germany is a public good due to that each abstraction needs to be permitted. At the same time the abstraction has to be documented by the user.	
Enhance drought management planning into the next cycle of River Basin Management Plans under the Water Framework Directive for all drought-affected, or potentially affected, Member States. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Develop a European wide early warning system for droughts to timely alert Member States on the need to take counter-measures. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Establish a drought emergency fund which would group in a single instruments and enhance the funding possibilities currently available under the EU Solidarity Fund and rural development funding. The Fund would include appropriate conditionalities on drought prevention measures being taken. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Establish a drought management directive to require Member States to develop and implement river basin drought management plans with specific drought measures to be reported to the Commission. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Other -open reply-(optional)	
This statement is not to be applied to the german context. We would like to indicate that a lot of problems concerning droughts are man-made.	
Unlocking measures in key sectors to protect Europe's waters	
The Commission to develop guidance clearly	Yes

<p>defining and providing an EU framework for green infrastructures that promotes natural water retention measures such as floodplains and wetlands restoration; sustainable drainage, the restoration of riparian areas and the re-meandering of rivers -single choice reply- (compulsory)</p>	
<p>The Commission to develop guidance for integrated water – land use management, bringing together spatial planning and River Basin Management Plans in co-ordination with other areas of EU environmental policy (Biodiversity, Nature, Soil) -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	Yes
<p>Develop guidance through the agriculture working group under the WFD Common Implementation Strategy on the effective application of measures by farmers to deliver water quality and quantity objectives at catchment level. These measures include changing crop patterns, buffer strips, restoring riparian areas, increase irrigation efficiency, etc. In that respect, particular emphasis will be put on the use of the Farm Advisory System set up under the CAP -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	Yes
<p>The European Innovation Partnership on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability and the European Innovation Partnership on Water develop and disseminate innovative solution to ensure agriculture's negative impact on water are removed or minimised and beneficial effects are maximised -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	Do not know
<p>Enhance the application of Environmental Impact Assessment to irrigation projects. -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	Do not know
<p>Enlarge the scope of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive to cover all hydropower development plans -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	Yes
<p>The Commission to ensure that the implementing rules for the post-2013 CAP Pillars I and II support and target the necessary measures to deliver water quality and quantity objectives. -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	Do not know
<p>Other -open reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>In Germany we have a comfortable situation regarding the water quantity, agricultural irrigation included. In contrast the water quality is significantly influenced by agricultural activity.</p>	
<p></p>	

Voluntary labelling of water using appliances -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Mandatory labelling of water using appliances -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Establish a WFD Common Implementation Strategy working group on water use efficiency for preparing “BREF-like” notes on water use/conveyance efficiency. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Minimum water efficiency requirements for water using appliances, e.g. under the Ecodesign directive -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Voluntary performance rating for buildings -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Mandatory performance rating for buildings -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Minimum water performance requirements for buildings -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
A directive on water efficiency requirements in buildings including a requirement on water companies to reduce final water consumption -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Other -open reply-(optional)	
In Germany water consumption and economic development are not linked to each other. Since 1990 we observe decreasing consumption rates. Reason: It is essential to apply the cost-recovering-principle.	
Promote leakage reduction in water stressed/potentially water stressed areas by prioritising it in Cohesion and Structural Funds spending -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Promote leakage reduction investment on the basis of public/private partnerships and European Investment Bank loans -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Develop guidance on best practices in leakage reduction -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Develop a harmonised method for determining the level of water leakage under the WFD Common Implementation Strategy at EU level and encourage Member States to integrate it into their water management practices -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Other -open reply-(optional)	
This assumption is not applicable to the German situation. Average water losses of 6.5% in the distribution systems are one of the lowest within the EU. It is important to mention that a consequent implementation of the cost-recovery-principle is one of the pre-conditions to manage infrastructure sustainably. Infrastructure maintenance is a continuous process.	

Develop EU guidance on certification schemes for water re-use -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
The Comité Européen de Normalisation (CEN) to adopt standards for use of recycled waste water in agriculture -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
An EU Regulation establishing standards for waste water re-use -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Other -open reply-(optional)	
Concerning waste-water-reuse we point out the risk to human health. Using waste-water for agricultural irrigation could not be a leading target.	
Economic Instruments	
Mapping all EU large irrigated areas via the remote sensing (GMES) initiative and match these areas with water abstraction permits to help Member States enforce them and tackle illegal abstraction. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Making EU funding for irrigation projects conditional upon the installation of metering devices, e.g. via the CAP implementing rules. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Making CAP direct payments to farmers (Pillar I) conditional upon the installation of metering devices, e.g. via cross compliance rules for the WFD. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
Amend the WFD to make it explicit that the Article 11 requirement of a permit for water abstraction also includes mandatory metering of the quantities abstracted. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Amend the WFD to require metering of individual water consumption and/or use where relevant. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Other -open reply-(optional)	
The cost-covering-principle is an inherent part of the WFD for water services. Irrigation is a water service which has to be paid by the users. In this context an EU-funding project seems to be an infringement against EU law.	
Implement the proposed rules for Cohesion & Structural and Rural Development funds to make the establishment of incentive pricing compulsory for (relevant) projects in areas with water deficit -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Add national water pricing obligations for farmers, based on Art.9 of the WFD, to cross-compliance rules under the CAP for the WFD -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes

The Commission to promote the use of trading in water rights at river basin level through the development of guidance and tools under the WFD Common Implementation Strategy -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
The Commission to develop criteria for the sustainable production of bio-energy crops with specific reference to water protection -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Specific recommendations are considered for Member States on water pricing policies in the context of the European Annual Growth Survey for the European Semester -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Amend the WFD to require that the price of water reflects volumetric use. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Other -open reply-(optional)	
At this point we refer to question no. 7. In Germany water is not a tradable commodity. The protection of water bodies is basic, either the water resources are endangered by the agricultural production of food or by the cultivation of energy plants. Requirements have to be identically stringent.	
The WFD Common Implementation Strategy to develop guidance for the next cycle of River Basin Management Plans and a methodology for the calculation of an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services, including environmental and resource costs and ecosystem services' benefits -single choice reply-(compulsory)	No
The Commission to propose an amendment of the WFD (an Annex) containing a mandatory methodology for the calculation of an adequate contribution of the different water uses to the recovery of the costs of water services, including environmental and resource costs and ecosystem services' benefits. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Other -open reply-(optional)	
Governance	
On the basis of the Commission assessment of the River Basin Management Plans, the WFD Common Implementation Strategy to identify and disseminate best practices in the EU. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know

<p>To develop a peer review process for river basin district authorities within the context of the WFD Common Implementation Strategy with a view to help them identifying ways of improving their coordinating role -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	<p>Do not know</p>
<p>Specific recommendations are considered for Member States on water governance in the context of the European Annual Growth Survey for the European Semester -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	<p>Do not know</p>
<p>Develop initiatives on inspections and surveillance to improve the means of detecting and responding to water-related implementation problems such as over-abstraction -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	<p>Do not know</p>
<p>Continue to promote the river basin management approach and the implementation of the EU water acquis through EU enlargement policy and international rivers agreements -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>To amend the WFD to strengthen the coordination powers of River Basin District authorities and the obligations for combined River Basin Management Plans in transboundary contexts -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Other -open reply-(optional)</p>	
<p>The implementation of the WFD is the assignment of the member states.</p>	
<p>Knowledge base</p>	
<p>Improve the sharing of data and other information by further developing the Water Information System for Europe (WISE) Implementation Plan -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	<p>Do not know</p>
<p>Enhance minimum WFD reporting requirements and statistical obligations (e.g. through the Framework regulation on environmental accounts/statistics), especially with regard to inter-operability of data. This includes harmonising the reporting timetables of the Urban Waste Water Treatment, Nitrates and Water Framework Directives -single choice reply-(compulsory)</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Develop a fully inter-operable, SEIS (Shared Environmental Information System) based,</p>	<p>No</p>

shared water knowledge system for use by Member States and EU institutions, reducing reporting requirements while prescribing interoperability standards for the information produced at local and national level and through GMES. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	
Develop a roadmap for water research priorities to be integrated in the next research funding cycle at EU and Member States level taking into account the need to improve the science policy interface. -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Yes
Other -open reply-(optional)	
Global aspects	
Help developing countries to put in place integrated sustainable water management through EU development cooperation -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Raise consumers' awareness of the water footprint of products -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Keep under review water foot printing tools with a view to test their usefulness for voluntary product labelling (e.g. as part of EU Ecolabel). -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Mandatory labelling of most embedded water intensive products -single choice reply-(compulsory)	Do not know
Other -open reply-(optional)	
The aspects of mismanagement in water scarce countries, especially in the developing, as well as in third-world-countries are much more complex than questioned. Regarding to that we are not able to answer problem no 12.	
Other issues	
Are there any other issues that you wish to raise or comments to make regarding the Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources? -open reply-(optional)	