



CIS Ad-hoc Task Group on Water scarcity and droughts

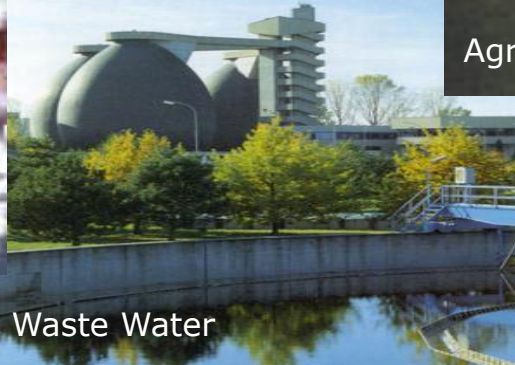
EDORA Workshop – Network of Drought Observatories in the EU

16-17 June 2022

EC – Directorate General for the Environment
Sustainable freshwater management unit

Various uses, demands, pressures and impacts

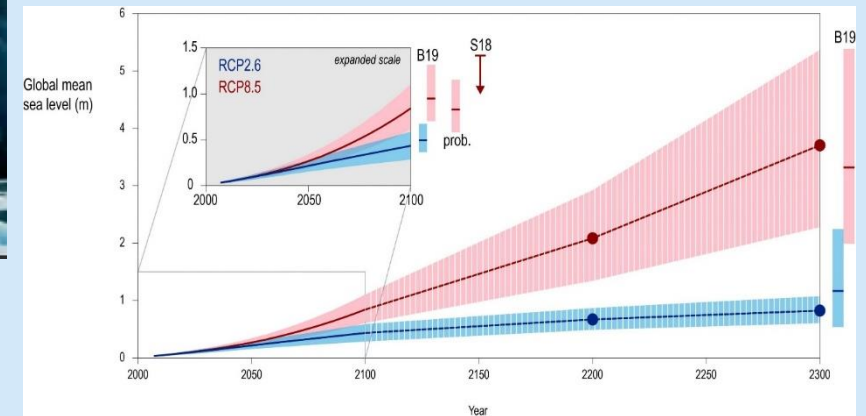
Water is a cross-cutting issue



Climate change



- Impacts are already there ...
- --- affecting every region in the EU.



Water policy & water-related policy



Water Scarcity & Droughts in the European Union

While Europe is by large considered as having adequate water resources, water scarcity and drought is an increasingly frequent and widespread phenomenon in the European Union. The long term imbalance resulting from water demand exceeding available water resources is no longer uncommon.



It was estimated that by 2007, at least 11 % of Europe's population and 17 % of its territory had been affected by water scarcity, putting the cost of droughts in Europe over the past thirty years at EUR 100 billion. The Commission expects further deterioration of the water situation in Europe if temperatures keep rising as a result of climate change. Water is no longer the problem of a few regions, but now concerns all 500 million Europeans.

Objectives

The main overall objective of EU water policy is to ensure access to good quality water in sufficient quantity for all Europeans, and to ensure the good status of all water bodies across Europe. Therefore, policies and actions are set up in order to prevent and to mitigate water scarcity and drought situations, with the priority to move towards a water-efficient and water-saving economy.

EU Action

The major challenge from water scarcity and droughts has been recognised in the Communication "*Addressing the challenge of water scarcity and droughts*" from the European Commission adopted in 2007 [COM(2007)414]. Implementation of the Communication is periodically assessed through annual *Follow-up Reports*

2007 EC Communication on water scarcity & droughts

COM(2007) 414 final

- ✓ Putting the **right price tag** on water
- ✓ **Water allocating** mechanism
- ✓ Improving **drought risk** management
- ✓ Fostering **water efficient technologies and practices**
- ✓ Fostering **water-saving culture** in Europe
- ✓ Additional **water supply infrastructures**
- ✓ **Improve knowledge & data collection**



The 2012 [Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water resources](#)

- WFD implementation report – assessment of 1st RBMPs
- Review of the EU policy on water scarcity and droughts
- Knowledge base & supporting background documents

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ENVIRONMENT

European Commission

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Water Framework Directive

WFD - what is it about?

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WFD implementation links

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Common Implementation Strategy

Flood Risk Management

Water Scarcity and Droughts

Drinking Water

Bathing Water

Emissions and Water Reuse

Adaptation to Global Change

Conferences and Initiatives

Water Eurobarometer

WFD and FD Implementation Reports

The fifth Water Framework Directive Implementation Report – assessment of the second River Basin Management Plans and the first Floods Directive Implementation Report – assessment of the first Flood Risk Management Plans (2019)

In accordance with Article 18 of the Water Framework Directive and Article 16 of the Floods Directive, the Commission must publish a report to the European Parliament and to the Council on the implementation of these Directives after each update of the River Basin Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Plans respectively.

The Commission Report must include among other things a review of progress in the implementation of the Directives and an assessment of the Plans, including suggestions for the improvement of future Plans. The report also includes an assessment of the international cooperation under the implementation of the Directives.

This 5th Implementation Report was adopted on 26/02/2019 and consists of the following documents:

- A [Commission report](#) to the European Parliament and the Council on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (assessment of the second River Basin Management Plans) and the Floods Directive (assessment of the first Flood Risk Management Plans), and an [Annex with recommendations](#) to all Member States on both Directives
- A [European Overview of the second River Basin Management Plans](#) - Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the report
- A [European Overview of the first Flood Risk Management Plans](#) - Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the report
- **Country-specific assessments for EU Member States' second River Basin Management Plans** - Commission Staff Working Documents accompanying the report : [Austria](#) , [Belgium](#) , [Bulgaria](#) , [Croatia](#) , [Czech Republic](#) , [Cyprus](#) , [Denmark](#) , [Estonia](#) , [Finland](#) , [France](#) , [Germany](#) , [Hungary](#) , [Italy](#) , [Latvia](#) , [Luxembourg](#) , [Malta](#) , [Poland](#) , [Portugal](#) , [Romania](#) , [Slovakia](#) , [Slovenia](#) , [Spain](#) , [Sweden](#) , [The Netherlands](#) , [UK](#)
- **Country-specific assessments for EU Member States' first Flood Risk Management Plans** - Commission Staff Working Documents accompanying the report : [Austria](#) , [Belgium](#) , [Bulgaria](#) , [Croatia](#) , [Czech Republic](#) , [Cyprus](#) , [Denmark](#) , [Estonia](#) , [Finland](#) , [France](#) , [Germany](#) , [Hungary](#) , [Italy](#) , [Latvia](#) , [Lithuania](#) , [Luxembourg](#) , [Malta](#) , [Poland](#) , [Portugal](#) , [Romania](#) , [Slovakia](#) , [Slovenia](#) , [Spain](#) , [Sweden](#) , [The Netherlands](#) , [UK](#)
- **Report on the international cooperation under the Water Framework Directive** - Commission Staff Working Documents accompanying the report
- **Report on the international cooperation under the Floods Directive** - Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the report

The 5th WFD and FD Implementation Report

26 Feb 2019

- Report of the EC to the EP and Council COM (2019) 95 final (+ update in 2021 for late reporters)
- General EU situation
- Specific assessments and recommendations by Member State
- International Cooperation Reports

2019 Fitness check conclusions



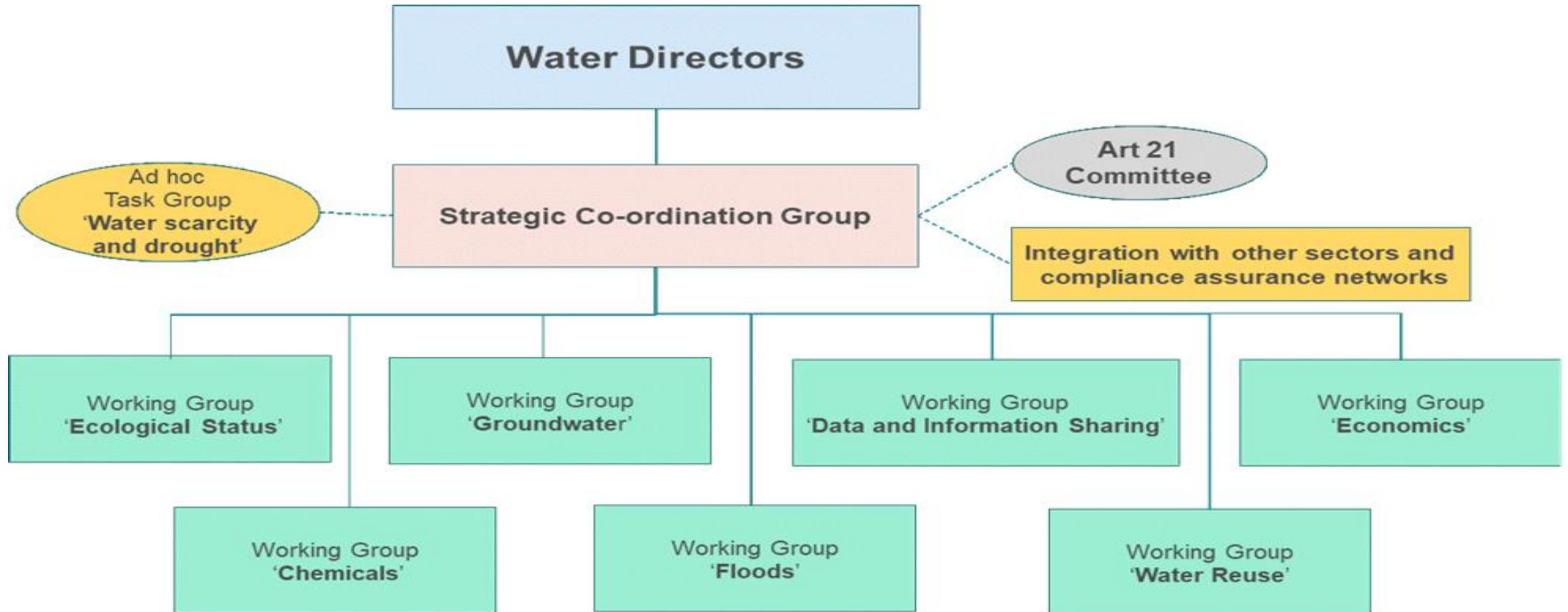
- The WFD, its daughter Directives and the FD are **largely fit for purpose, with some room for improvement**
- **The WFD** is sufficiently prescriptive with regard to the pressures to be addressed, and yet flexible enough to reinforce its implementation as necessary with regard to **climate change and water scarcity**.
- **For the FD**, in the implementation, the knowledge and modelling of the impact of climate change on all sources of floods should be improved.
- **As for quantitative issues** in particular due to the impacts of climate change, **Member States will need to make the best possible use of the framework offered by the WFD** to address them. It is worth exploring how this process can be facilitated at EU level.

The European Green Deal



Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the EU Water Law

CIS Work Programme 2022-2024



CIS ATG Water scarcity and droughts

- **Mandate (based on CIS WP 2022-2024):**

- Exchange on implementation and enforcement actions concerning abstractions, including contributing to Working Group Ecostat task as regards the Biodiversity Strategy's action on ecological flow.
- **Provide technical support to promote the wider use of drought management plans, warning systems, including the exchange on activities implemented by the JRC-EDO.**
- Provide technical support, exchange information and jointly promote efficient water use regarding policies (eg Common Agricultural Policy) and legislation addressing the water-saving requirements for products, water efficiency measures in other sectors (buildings, energy, agriculture, industry) as well as other drought prevention and management best practices.
- Exchange on NBS in water quantity management (together with Working Group Floods).
- Exchange on water allocation mechanisms (together with Working Group Economics)
- Exchange on measures regarding sustainable and climate-resilient water management.
- Water scarcity and drought management in terms of RBMP and risk reduction, including the issue of water security.
- Transboundary cooperation on water scarcity and droughts within the EU.

CIS ATG Water scarcity and droughts

- **Deliverables:**

- **Report on drought management policies, an in-depth assessment of drought management plans in the EU and adaptation measures to droughts in various sectors (EDORA outcome) – 2023**
- CIS Guidance 24 on river basin management in a changing climate to be updated – 2023
- **Drought impact database and drought risk atlas established at the JRC-EDO (EDORA outcome) – 2023**
- Report on good practices on water allocation mechanism (together with WG Economics) – 2024
- Report on WS&D management in terms of RBMP and risk reduction – 2024

CIS ATG Water scarcity and droughts

- **Next steps:**

- Follow-up to the 1st meeting of the ATG WSD (7 April 2022)
- Cooperation within/outside CIS (e.g. WG Adaptation)
 - **Network of Drought Observatories in the EU**
- Regular reporting to CIS SCG and Water Directors, as necessary
- 2nd meeting of the ATG WSD on 27-28 September 2022 in Portugal (hybrid)

Thank you

[Meeting documents for the first ATG Water scarcity & droughts meeting](#)
[Progress report – ATG Water scarcity & droughts \(SCG 17 May 2022\)](#)

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