

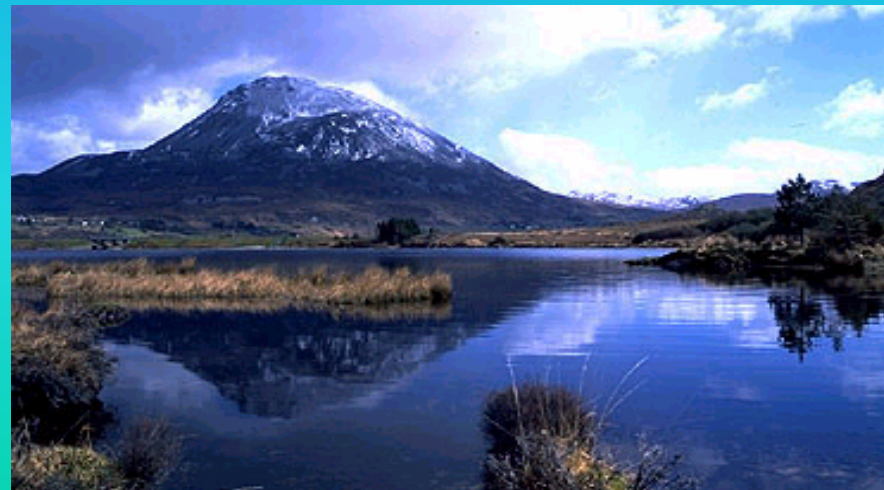
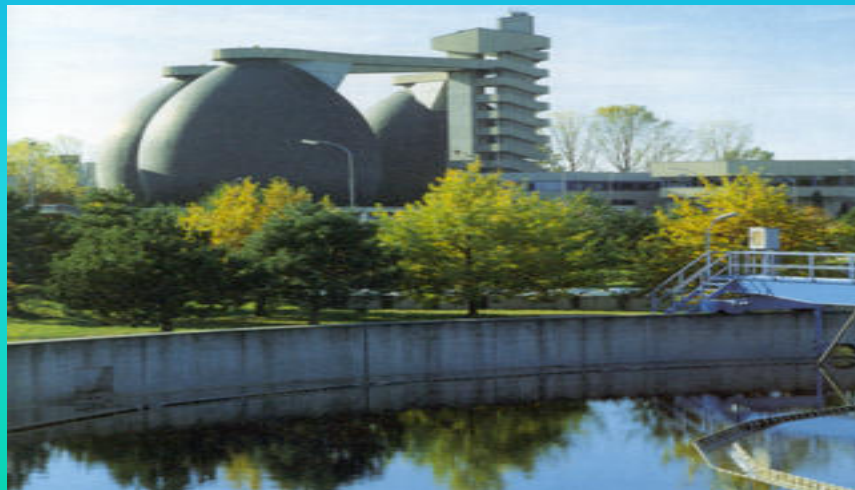
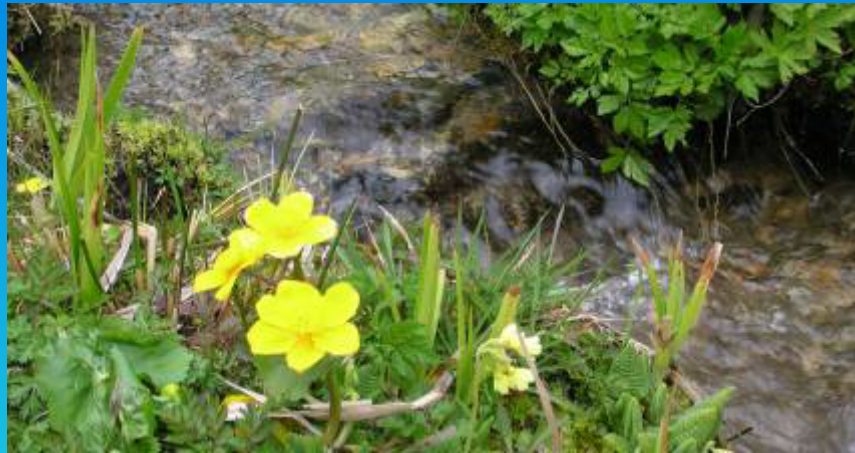
# Water Framework Directive State of play and challenges ahead

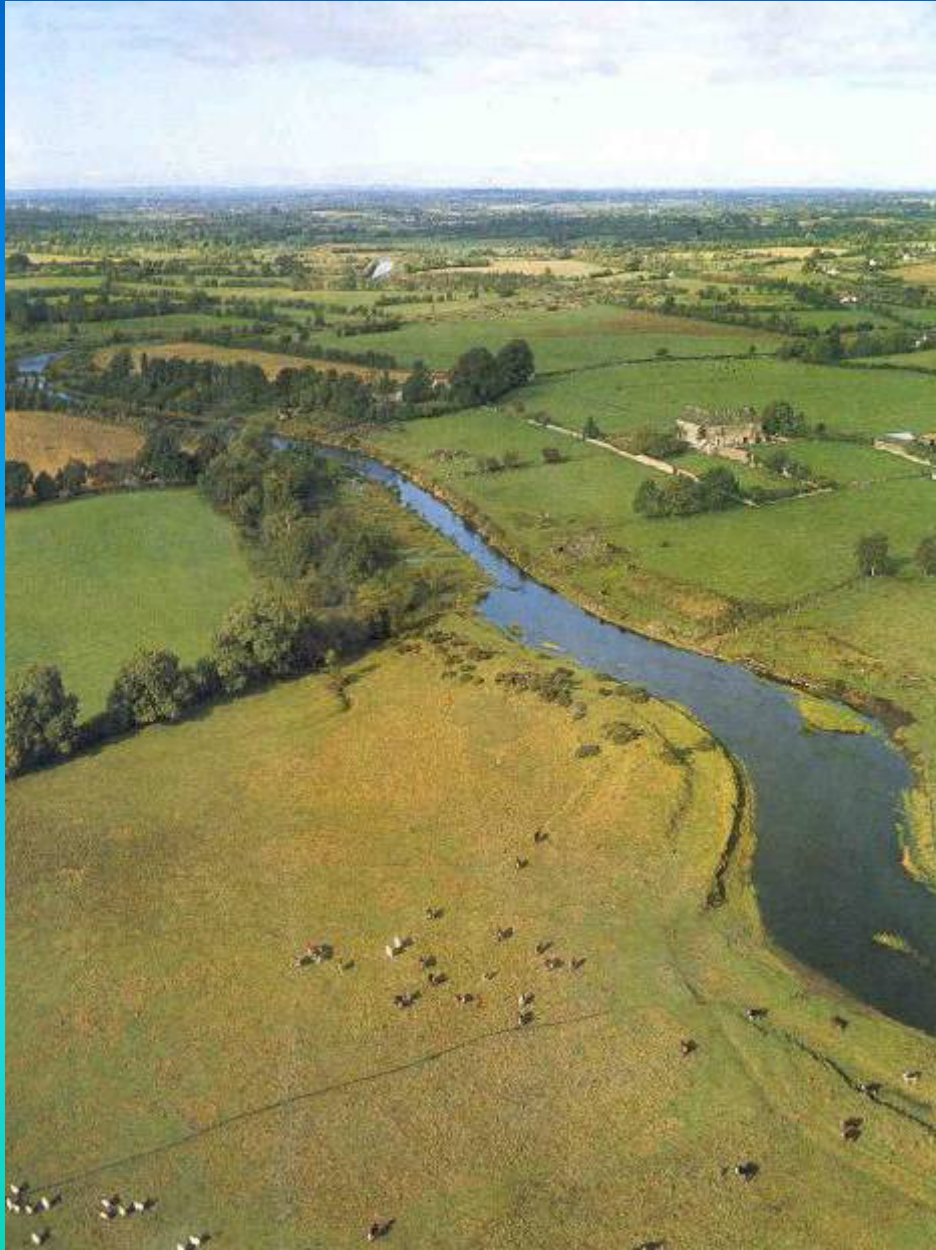


H. Blöch, European Commission

First EWA Brussels Conference 25 October 2005

**“European River Basin Management Policy”**





## Overview



- **State of play - where do we stand ?**
- **Formal and operational implementation**
- **Pressures and impacts assessment – examples across Europe**
- **First conclusions**
- **Outlook: from first assessment to river basin management plans and their implementation**

# Water Framework Directive

## key elements



- protecting all waters, and covering all impacts
- 'good status' to be achieved, as a rule, by 2015, linked to a strict non-deterioration clause
- water quality defined in terms of biology, chemistry and morphology (surface waters) and of chemistry and quantity (groundwaters)
- monitoring programmes for surface and groundwaters
- water management based on river basins
- economic instruments: economic analysis, and pricing reflecting cost recovery - to promote prudent use of water
- mandatory public participation by citizens, municipalities, NGOs in developing river basin management plans

# **Implementation:** a continuous and transparent process



**Formal transposition into national law;  
River basin district designation**

**Dec 2003  
/May 2004**



**Environmental analysis; economic analysis**

**Dec 2004**



**Monitoring programmes operational  
Public participation to start at the latest**

**Dec 2006  
Dec 2006**



**Draft river basin management plans**

**Dec 2008**



**Final river basin management plans**

**Dec 2009**



**Implementation, assessment, adjustment**

**- 2015  
and further<sub>4</sub>**

# WFD state of implementation (1)

Legal transposition; intercalibration; designation river basins



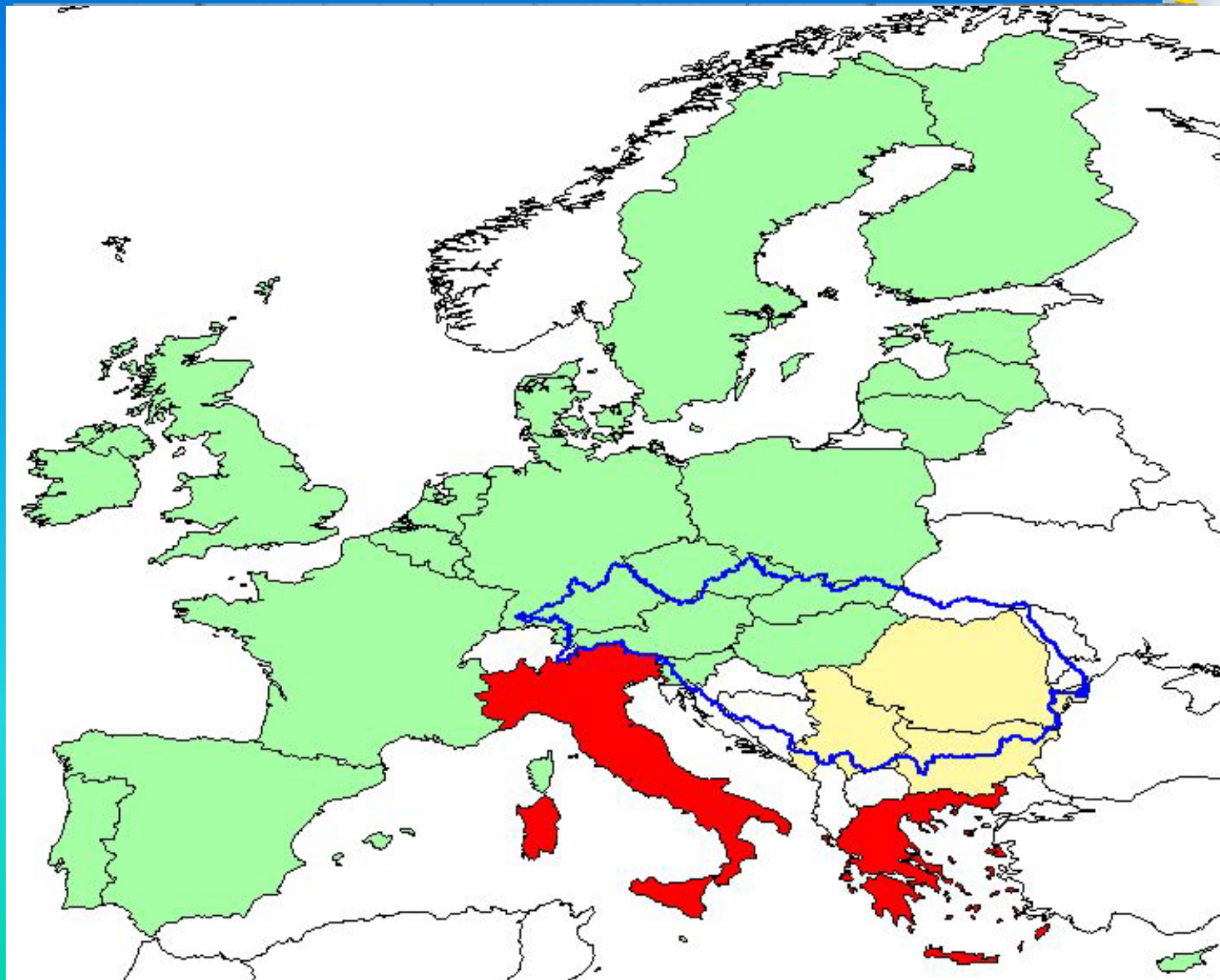
Country		Notification (Art. 24)	Intercalibration sites	River Basin Districts Report	Country		Notification (Art. 24)	Intercalibration sites	River Basin Districts Report
Austria		😊	😊	😊	Latvia		😊	😊	😊
Belgium		😐*	😊	😐*	Lithuania		😊	😊	😊😊
Cyprus		😊	😊	😊	Luxembourg		😞	😊	😊😊
Czech Republic		😊	😊	😊	Malta		😊	😊	😊
Denmark		😊	😊	😊	Netherlands		😊	😊	😊
Estonia		😊	😊	😊😊	Poland		😊	😊	😊
Finland		😐	😊	😊	Portugal		😞	😊	😊
France		😊	😊	😊	Slovakia		😊	😊	😊😊
Germany		😐	😊	😊	Slovenia		😊	😊	😊
Greece		😊	😊	😊	Spain		😊	😊	😞
Hungary		😊	😊	😊	Sweden		😊	😊	😊
Ireland		😊	😊	😊😊	United Kingdom		😊	😊	😊
Italy		😞	😊	😞					

**Status of notifications/procedures 24 October 2005**

Application at European Court of Justice submitted January 2005 because of lack of national legislation

# WFD state of implementation (2)

Analysis of pressures and impacts (article 5 reports); state 24 Oct 2005



## **Environmental objective “good status” - a realistic objective**



- **Derived from high status prevailing in the particular water and region, thus addressing regional diversity**
- **Allowing for a deviation from high status to good status (comprehensively defined in annex V)**
- **Ongoing intercalibration exercise will provide for comparability of biological monitoring results:  
step 1  $\checkmark$ : list of 1489 reference sites published September 2005 (all EU25 + NO, BG and RO);  
step 2 within 18 months: making operational the intercalibration by linking the borders high/good and good/moderate status to data for the biological quality elements**

# Environmental objectives - exemptions ?



- **Exemptions are an integral part of environmental objectives and the planning process, however not along a 'choose as you like' line**
- **Exemptions linked to compliance with a set of conditions**
  - o Extension of deadlines (max 2\*6 years, i.e. 2027)
  - o Less stringent environmental objectives
  - o Temporary exemptions in case of natural causes or 'force majeure'
  - o 'New sustainable human development activities'
  - o ... and for all exemption options apply the strict criteria of articles 4(8) and 4(9):
    - > No exemption may jeopardize achievement of objective of the WFD *in any other body of water* in the same river basin district;
    - > application of exemption must guarantee at least the same level of protection as the existing EU legislation (i.e. no derogations from existing obligations e.g. waste water treatment or nitrates pollution)



Guidance document n°1	Economics and the environment The implementation challenge of the WFD
Guidance document n°2	Identification of Water Bodies
Guidance document n°3	Analysis of Pressures and Impacts Identification & Designation of Heavily Polluted Water Bodies

# COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY FOR THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE



## ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES UNDER THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

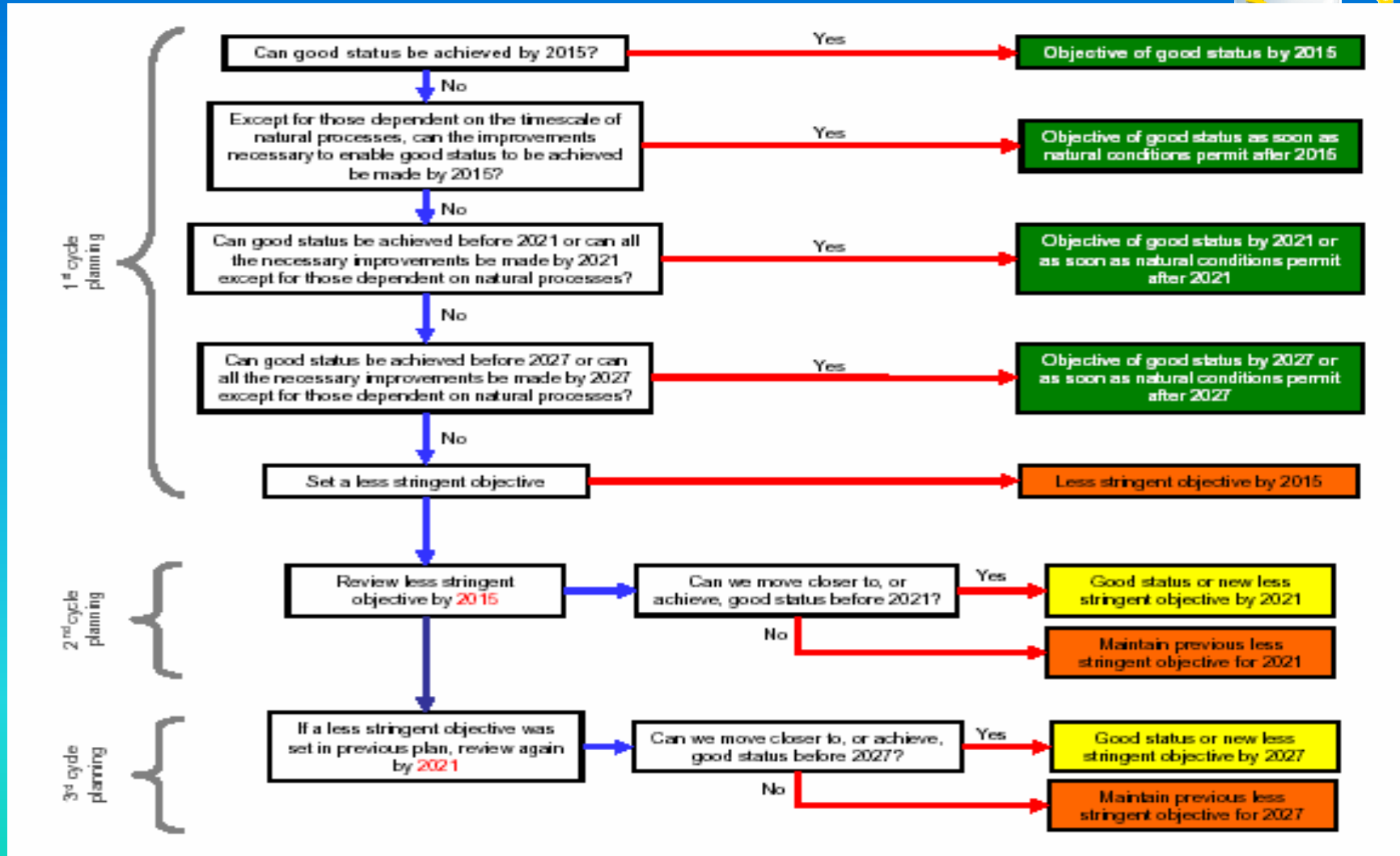
POLICY SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

September 2005



# Environmental objectives

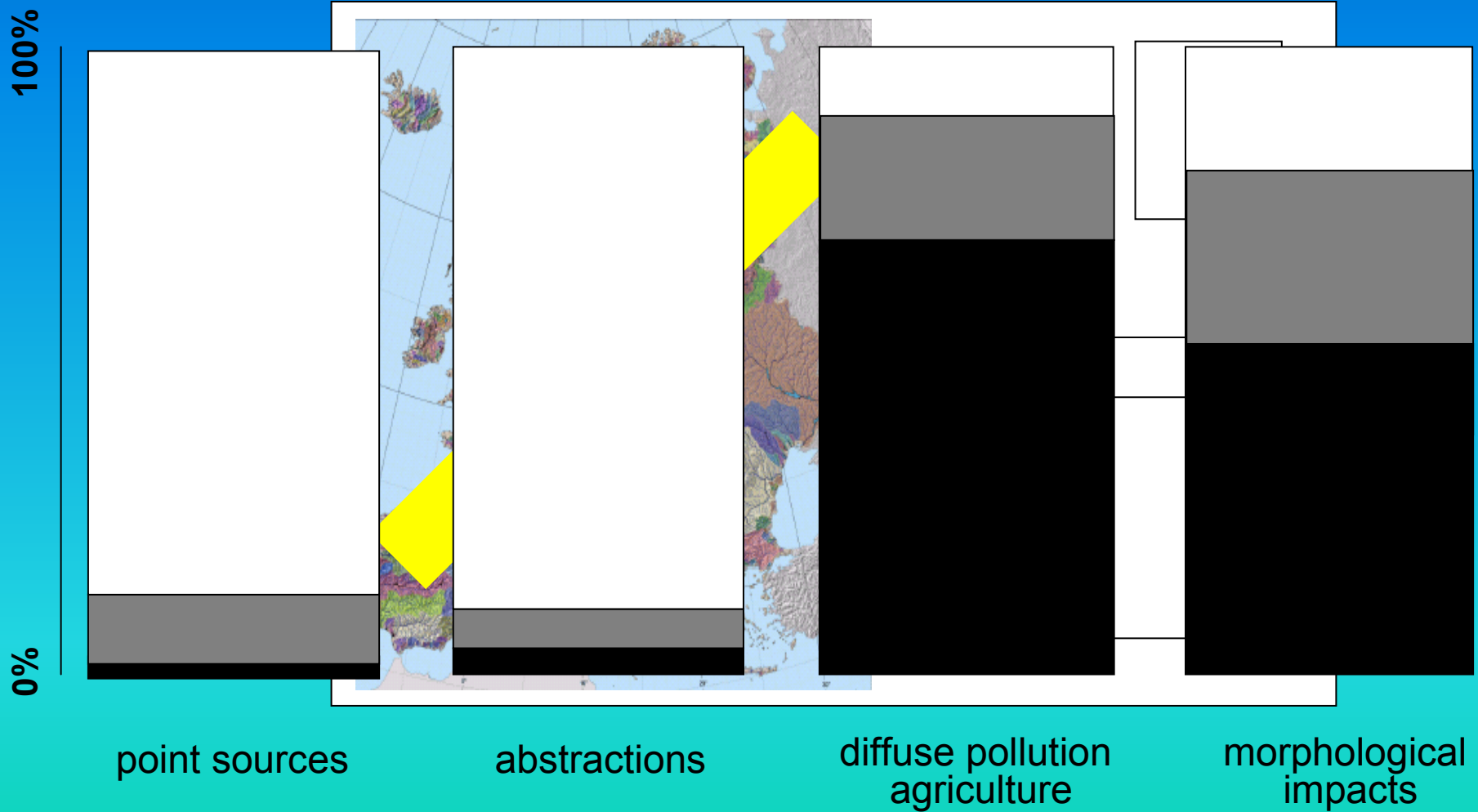
Objectives and exemptions to be used for setting priorities



**Setting environmental objective does not stop by 2009; it will be a dynamic and iterative process.**

# First analysis under article 5

Is there a risk not to achieve "good status" ?



# First analysis of article 5 reports

The analysis is demonstrating your achievements as well as non-achievements ...



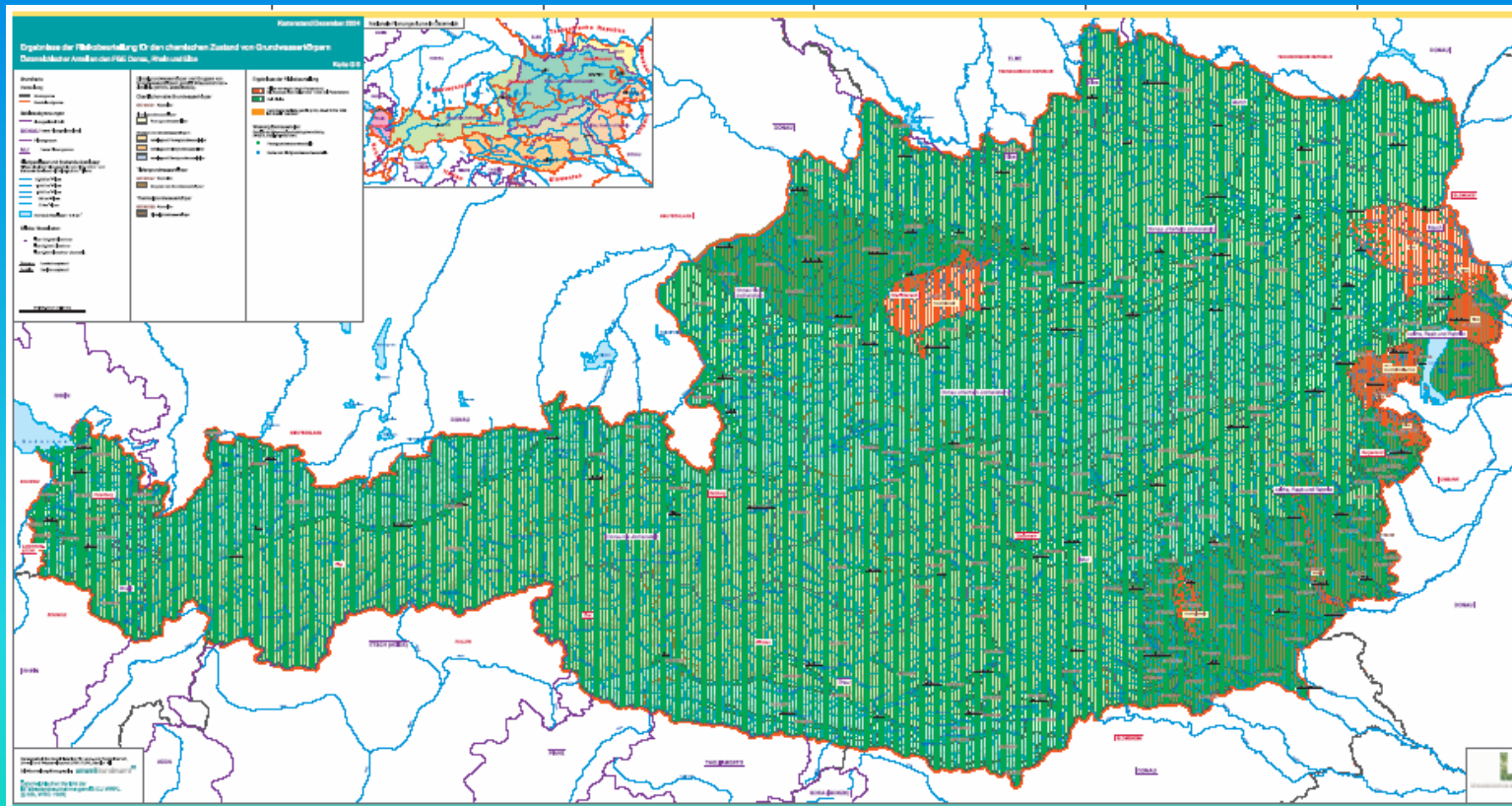
- **First analysis shows that a high number of water bodies are at risk:**
- **Firstly, hydromorphological alterations (inter alia from navigation, pressures of land use in urban and rural areas, hydropower, flood defences) are a common concern across Europe.**
- **Secondly, in several parts of Europe non-delivery on tasks already due (waste water treatment, nitrates pollution from agriculture) plays a considerable role in shaping our waters 'at risk': "usual suspects". It is unjustified to attribute costs to the WFD, if in fact they are related to old obligations not complied with ... (e.g. on urban waste water or on nitrates pollution) ... some examples**

# Austria - risk analysis

## Chemical status of groundwaters



<4% of groundwaters at risk of not meeting chemical quality standards (nitrates and/or pesticides)

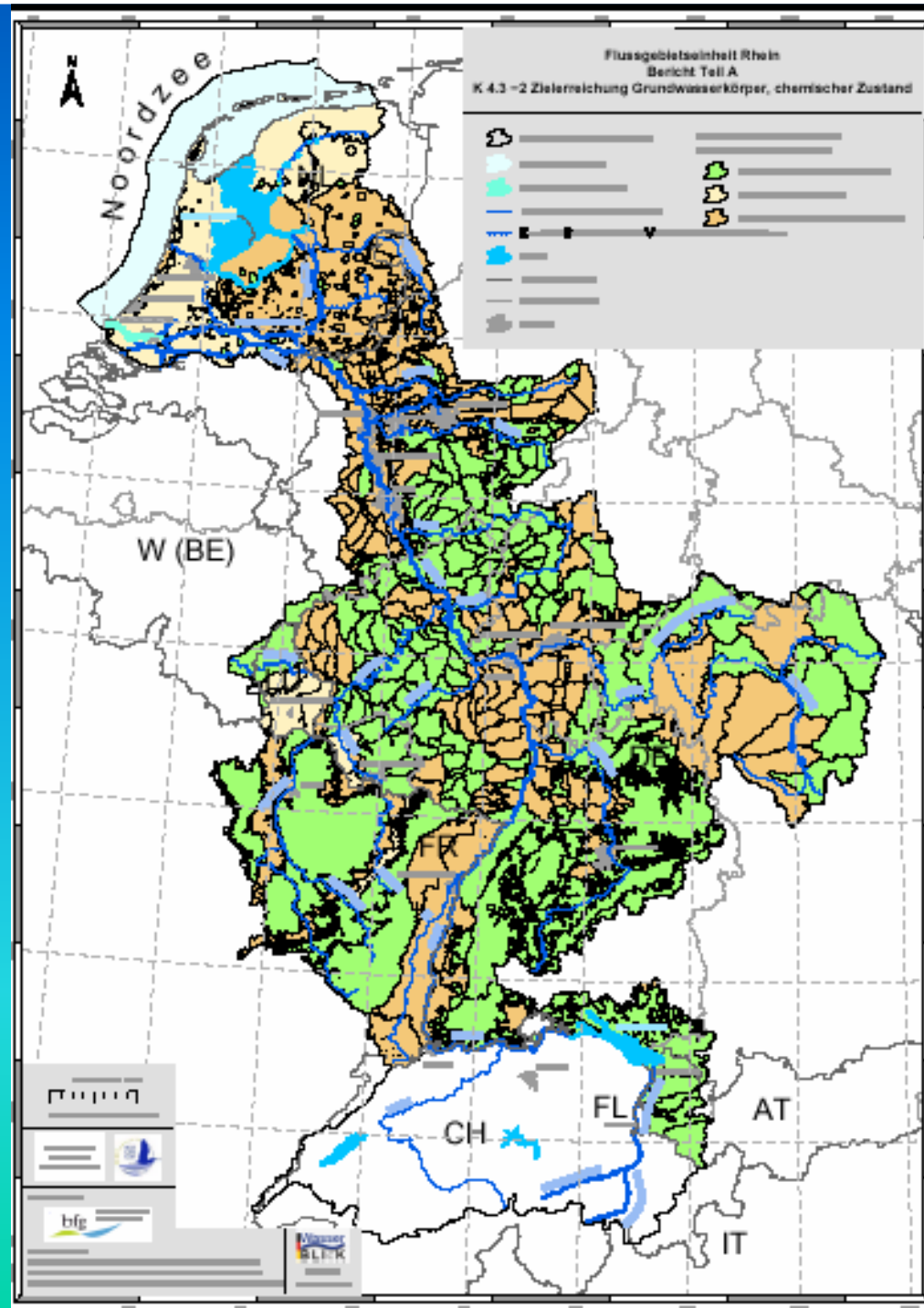


# Rhine basin

## risk analysis

„Chemical status of groundwater“

≈ 50% of groundwaters at risk of not meeting chemical quality standards



# Danube basin - risk analysis

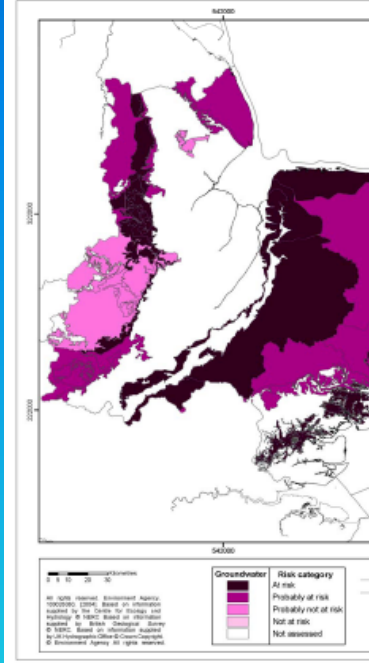
organic pollution und nutrient pollution; hydromorphology



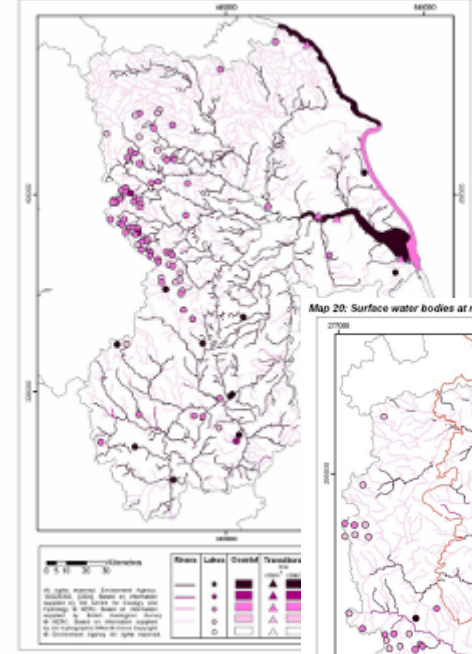
# UK – England & Wales risk analysis groundwater Anglian region, diffuse sources



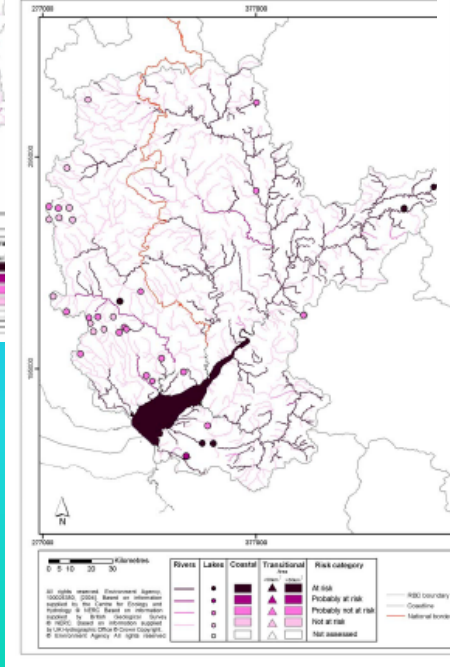
Map 25: Groundwater water bodies at risk from diffuse source pollution pressures



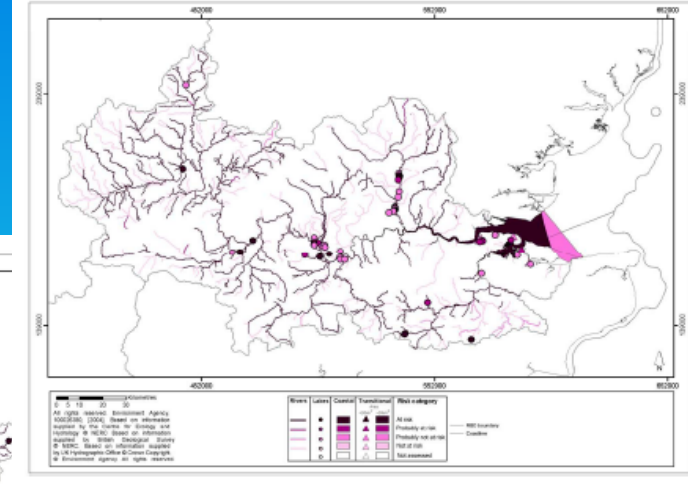
Map 21: Surface water bodies at risk from point source pollution pressures



Map 20: Surface water bodies at risk from point source pollution pressures



Map 21: Surface water bodies at risk from point source pollution pressures



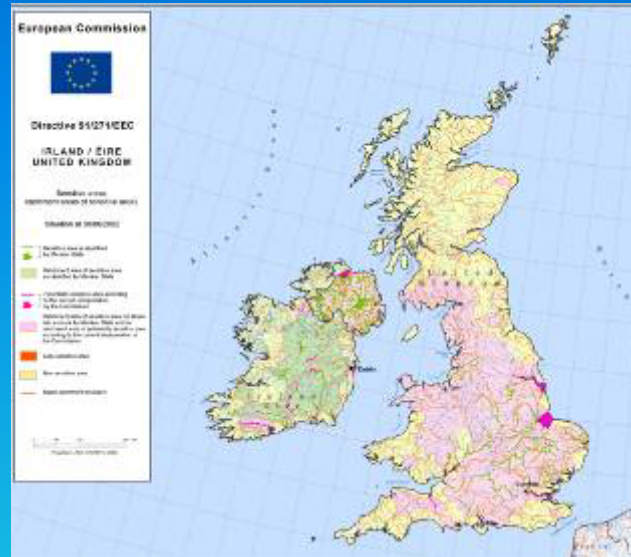


# UK – England & Wales risk analysis vs UWWD obligations

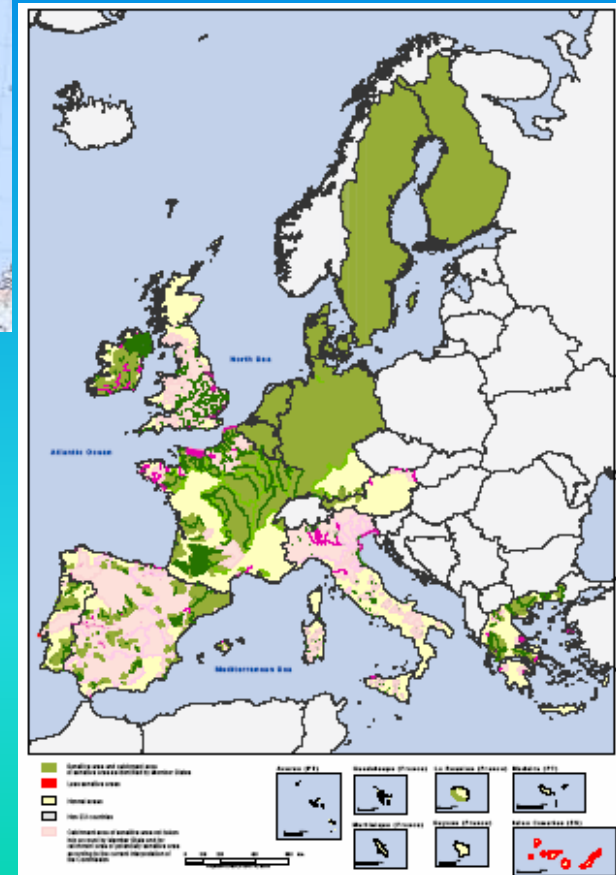


Marine waters and estuaries **2005** assessed as “at risk of not achieving environmental objectives from point source pollution” =

= largely areas which would have required nutrient removal already under the **1991** Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive



▲  
Note:  
European Court of Justice judgements against FR (2004) and IT (2002); procedures against UK and ES ongoing.





# European Court of Justice



.....

2. Orders the **Hellenic Republic** to pay to the Commission of the European Communities, into the account EC own resources, a **penalty payment of EUR 20 000 for each day of delay** in implementing the measures necessary to comply with the judgement in Case C-45/91 from delivery of the present judgement until the judgement in Case C-45/91 has been complied with

**GR**

.....

2. Orders the **Kingdom of Spain** to pay to the Commission of the European Communities, into the account European Community own resources, a **penalty payment of EUR 624 150 per year and per 1% of bathing areas** in Spanish inshore waters which have been found not to conform to the limit values laid down under Directive 76/160 ...;

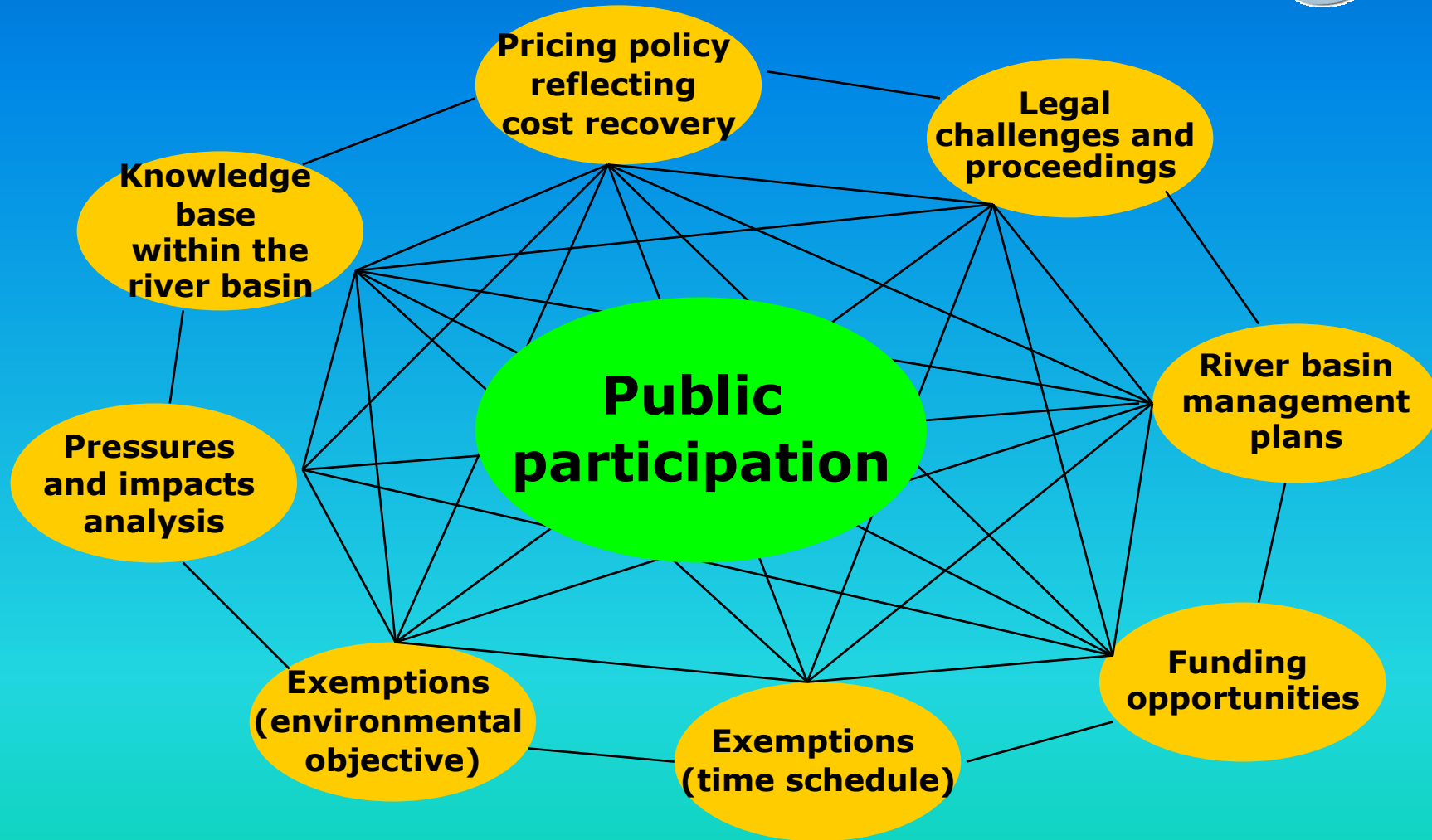
**ES**

# Outlook (1): from first analysis to river basin management plans



- **WFD stepwise approach to be continued**
  - **WISE reporting system to be further developed**
  - **2006 harmonisation of criteria for status setting**
  - **2005-2009 evaluation of cost-effective measures**
  - **2007 onwards: monitoring in particular where in the past data were incomplete**
  - **2008-2009: setting objectives including where appropriate exemptions in line with WFD conditions; public consultation to be crucial;**
- **Socio-economic considerations to be reflected in possible exemptions, but *not* in environmental objectives; integration into other policies;**
- **Long-term planning basis for technical, financial and political decisions at all involved levels;**
- **European Commission fully committed to cooperation on implementation - but also ready to take legal action.**

# Outlook (2): Public participation: benefits for all involved



# Information – a crucial contribution to public participation



The collage features several overlapping browser windows:

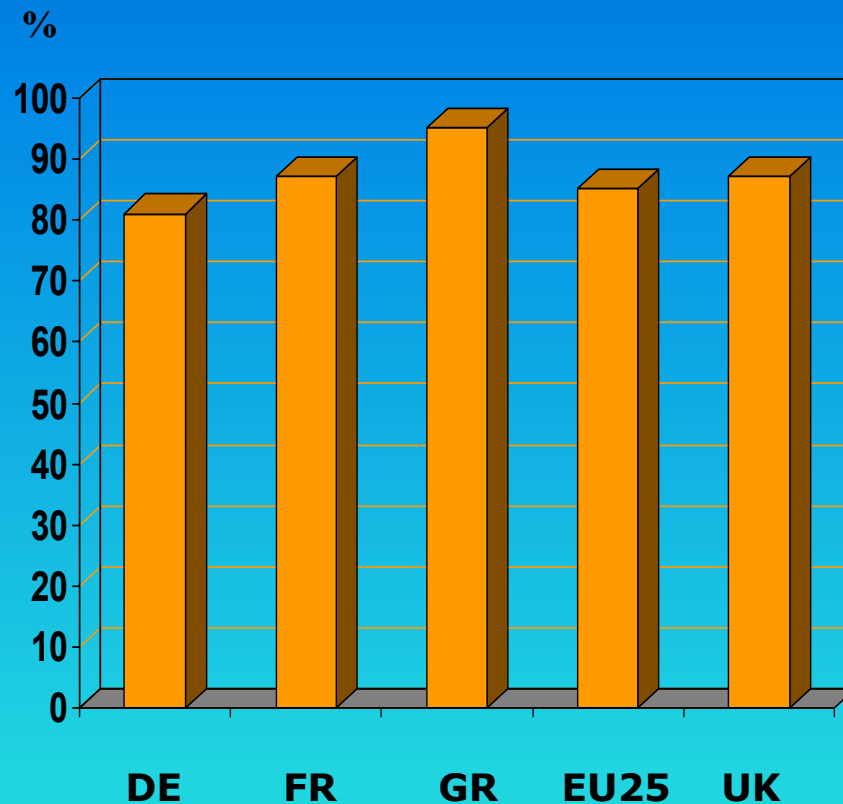
- Top Left:** A window from the Czech Ministry of Environment (MŽP ČR) website, showing the URL <http://www.env.cz/> and the text "MINISTERSTVO ŽIVOTNÍHO PROSTŘEDÍ Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic".
- Top Middle:** A window titled "Water Framework Directive (WFD) - Scotland : Introduction to WFD - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by European Commission". The address bar shows <http://www.sepa.org.uk/wfd/index.htm>. The page content includes "SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION www.sepa.org.uk" and "Welcome to the Water Framework Directive". A sidebar lists various topics like "INTRODUCTION TO WFD", "TIMETABLE", "NEWS, EVENTS AND CONSULTATIONS", etc.
- Top Right:** A window titled "European Water Management Online Official Publication of the European Water Association (EWA) © EWA 2004". It lists authors "S. Nilsson<sup>1, 2</sup>, S. Langston<sup>1</sup> and F. Hansson<sup>1</sup>" and the title "International River Basin Districts under the EU Water Framework Directive: Identification and Planned Cooperation".
- Bottom:** A window from the European Commission website (<http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/water/index.html>). The page is titled "Environment" and "Water policy in the European Union". It includes a search bar, navigation links like "Who's who", "Policies", "Integration", "Funding", "Resources", and "News & Developments", and a main text block starting with "For most people in the European Union access to clean water in quite abundant quantities is taken for granted. Most people do not realise however, that all many human activities put a burden on water quality and quantity. All polluted water, whether polluted by households, industry or agriculture, returns back, one way or another, to the environment and may cause damage to human health or the environment."

# Interest and support by citizens



**Representative opinion poll,  
published April 2005**

- ... for a majority of citizens in all EU25 countries "water" is of all environmental themes the most important one (UK 57%);
- ... and an overwhelming majority of citizens in all EU25 expect from policy makers to take protection of the environment as important and economic and social policies: figures by country 74-95%, EU average 85%.



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**Thank you for your attention.**

This contribution reflects the views of the author and not necessarily those of the European Commission.