

Implementation of the WFD in the Danube basin

Zagreb - 2nd follow-up
meeting - Joint Statement
9 March 2010

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WFD timelines

- 22 December 2009 is milestone: River Basin Management Plans should be adopted
 - Member States report river basin management plans to EC by 22 March 2010 (via WISE)
 - Commission prepares assessment report by 2012
 - 2012 report will be linked to:
 - Review of strategy on Water Scarcity and Droughts
 - EU Adaptation Policy – next phase
- > EU BLUEPRINT FOR WATER POLICY





GREEN - River Basin Management Plan established

ORANGE - consultations finalised, but plans not yet published.

BLUE - consultations ongoing

PURPLE - consultations not started or ongoing in a part of the country

RED - consultation have not yet started

Focus assessment EC

- **EC expects to receive 170 RBMPs**
- **16 topics will be subject to in-depth assessment**
- **These topics include:**
 - **Classification of ecological status**
 - **Designation of Heavily Modified Water Bodies and setting of Good Ecological Potential**
 - **Application and justification of exemptions, including new modifications**
 - **Measures related to hydromorphology**



International Danube Plan



Finalised end 2009 - endorsed at Ministerial Meeting

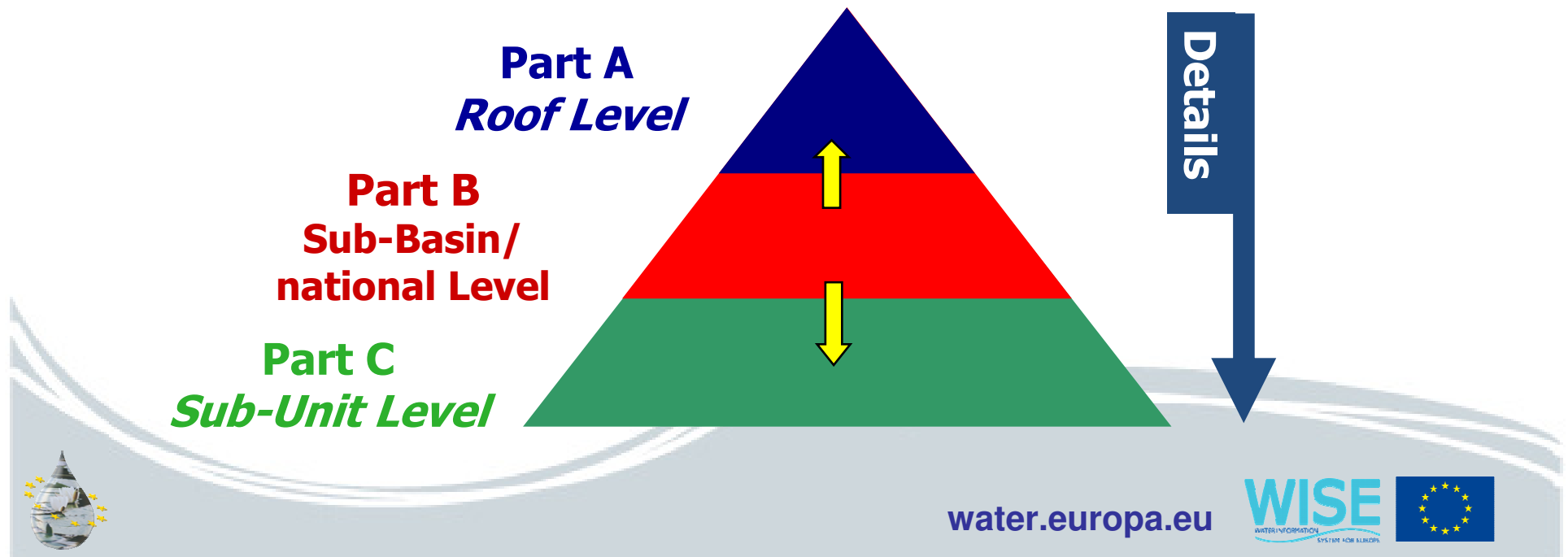
First comprehensive plan, including status of 'large' water bodies, Joint Programme of Measures to achieve good status, focus on identified significant water management issues

water.europa.eu



International Danube Plan

- Focus on issues of basin wide importance
- Should be read in conjunction with national/regional plans



International Danube Plan



Organic
Pollution



Nutrient
Pollution

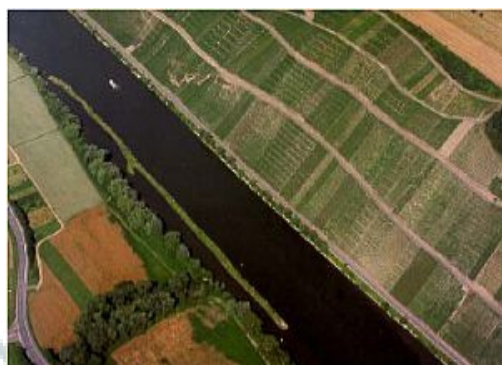


Hazardous
Substances Pollution



Hydromorphological
Alterations

⇒ Plus: Transboundary GW bodies of basin-wide importance



Hydromorphological
Alterations

River and Habitat Continuity Interruption

Disconnection of Adjacent Wetlands/Floodplains

Hydrological Alterations

Future Infrastructure Projects



Future infrastructure projects

- ⇒ Future Infrastructure Projects can impact and deteriorate the water status
- ⇒ 112 Future Infrastructure Projects reported
- ⇒ 70 of them on Danube River
- ⇒ 57% dedicated to navigation; 28% to flood protection
- ⇒ Rest: hydropower generation, water supply and other purposes
- ⇒ 25 projects are subject to WFD Article 4(7) in EU MS
- ⇒ 19 FIPs in Non EU MS



Danube River Basin District: Future Infrastructure Projects Planned by 2015

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This ICPRD product is based on national information provided by the Contracting Parties to the ICPRD (AT, BA, BG, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, RO, RS, SI, SK, UA) and CH, except for the following: EuroGlobeMap v2.1 from EuroGeographics was used for national borders of AT, CZ, DE, HR, HU, MD, RO, SI, SK and UA; ESRI data was used for national borders of AL, ME, MK; Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) from USGS Seamless Data Distribution System was used as topographic layer; data from the European Commission (Joint Research Center) was used for the outer border of the DRBD of AL, IT, ME and PL.

Future infrastructure projects

- **WFD allows for deterioration by new modifications under strict conditions:**
 - No better environmental options
 - Project is of overriding public interest/outweighing water protection benefits
 - All mitigation measures are taken
 - Project and reasons are reported in RBM Plan
 - Other water bodies are not impacted/other objectives not impaired

**Often related and to be combined to Habitats Directive
Article 6.3, EIA and SEA requirements**



Future infrastructure projects

- **WFD - what do we expect (agreed with MS in guidance):**
 - Assessment of project on all relevant quality elements
 - Use WFD monitoring and status data
 - Assess alternatives and describe whether there are no better environmental options (e.g. type of measure, location of measure)
 - Assess alternatives at strategic/RBD level in early stage
 - Describe overriding public interest/comparison to foregone water protection benefits
 - Describe assessment of mitigation measures
 - Projects are included in RBM Plans
 - Article 4.7 assessment in early stage



Future infrastructure projects

Article 6 Habitats Directive:

For sites Member States shall:

- Establish necessary conservation measures
- Avoid deterioration

For any plan or project

- Likely to have a significant effect on site
- Either individually or in combination with other plans or projects

MS shall prepare appropriate assessment



Future infrastructure projects

Art. 6.3/4 Habitats Directive, simplified

Possible negative impact on Natura 2000 site? → yes

Nature impact assessment → If negative

Alternatives? → If no

Overriding public interest? → If yes

Compensation measures - Commission opinion (if priority interest)



Encountered problems with application Art 6 HD or Art 4.7 WFD

- **Inappropriate impact assessments**
- **Negative results of assessments not respected**
- **No/insufficient alternatives considered**
- **No or inadequate mitigation / compensation measures**
- **HD: no designation/ proposal qualifying site**
- **WFD: lack of cumulative impacts / overall RBD picture**



Good examples and guidance exist

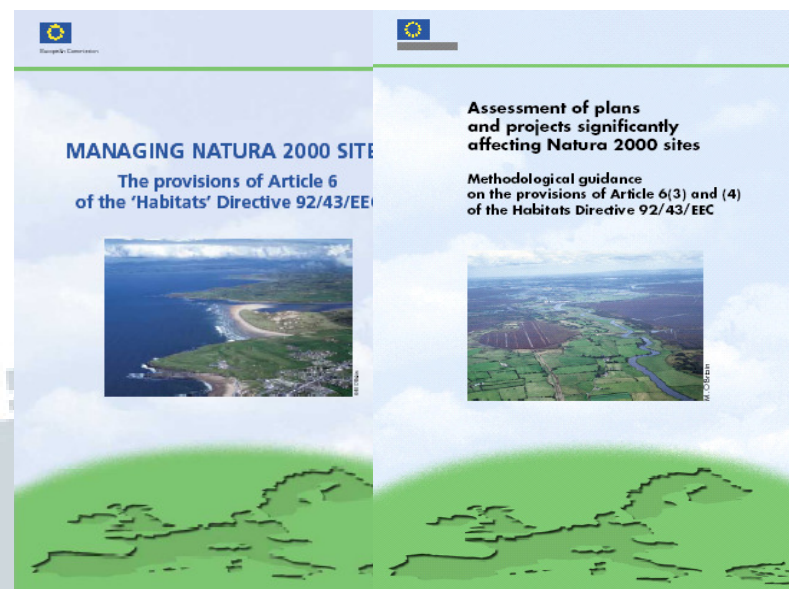
- Guidance on application of WFD exemptions

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/guidance_documents&vm=detailed&sb=Title

- Guidance on pressures from navigation, hydropower, flood protection

http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/wfd/library?l=/framework_directive/thematic_documents/hydromorphology&vm=detailed&sb=Title and

- Joint Statement & Platina Manual
- EC guidance on Natura 2000
- EU WG on rivers:
Draft guidance autumn '10



Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/participation/map_mc/map.htm



water.europa.eu

WISE
WATER INFORMATION
SYSTEM FOR EUROPE

