



# **Integration of environmental concerns & objectives of the EU policies on water & agriculture**

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# Overview presentation:



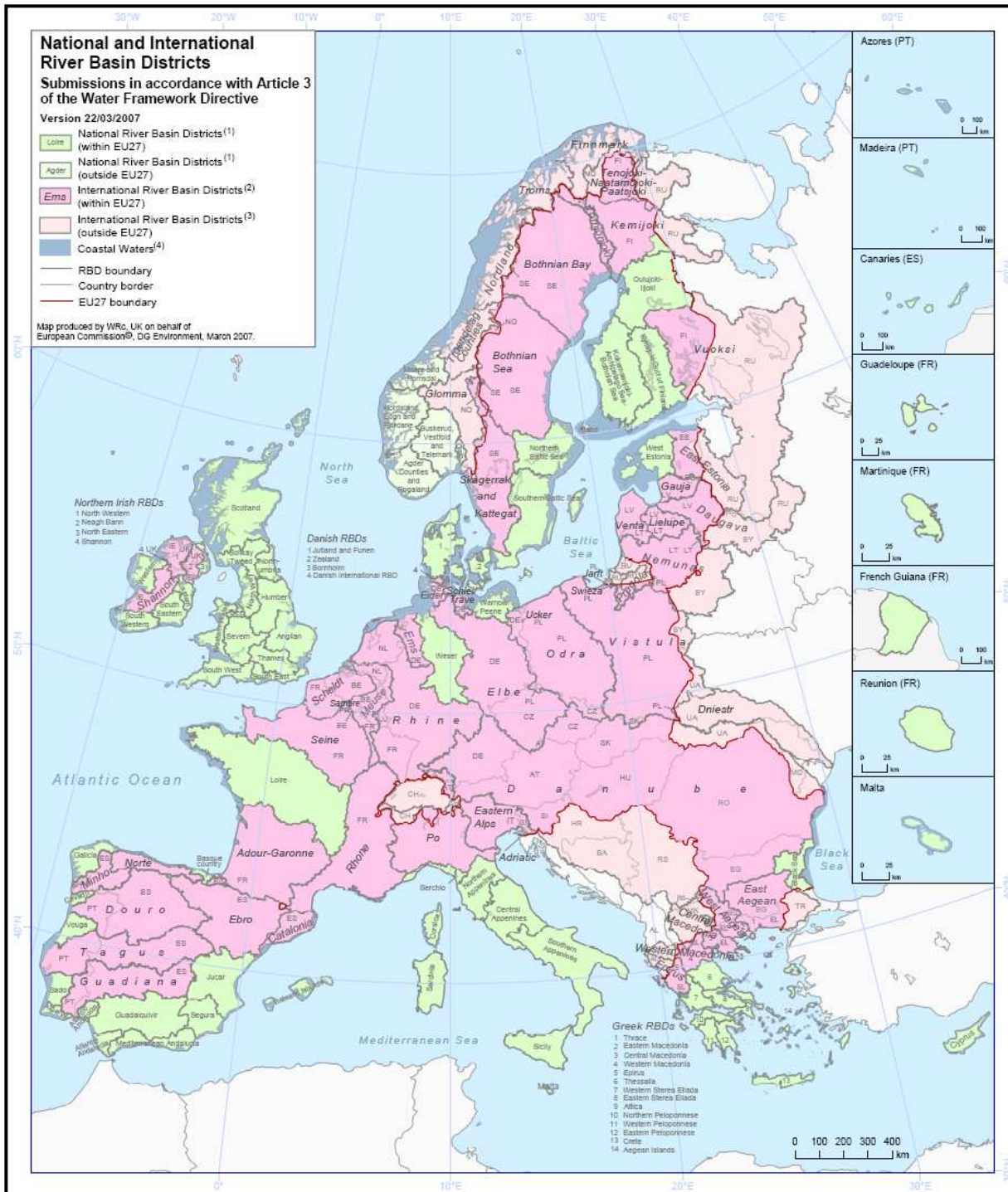
1. WFD & Blueprint communication
2. Agriculture in the WFD management plans
3. Implementing WFD without CAP
4. Implementing WFD with CAP
5. Some recommendations for the future





# 1. WFD & Blueprint Communication





Why do we have a European directive on water?

➔ Most of the European river basins are transboundary.

Danube is a good illustration



- ***Protecting all water bodies***
- ***Achievement of **good status** in all water bodies and **no deterioration** of status***
- ***Integrated planning process at **river basin scale*****
- ***Comprehensive assessment of **pressures, impacts and status**, including the ecological perspective***
- ***Economic instruments such as **water pricing*****
- ***Integration of water policy with other policies (agriculture, transport, energy...)***
- ***Public participation***



- **Good status in 2015**

- *Ecological status*
- *Chemical status*
- *Quantitative status*
- *No deterioration*

- **Key elements**

- *Water quality defined in terms of biology, chemistry and **hydro-morphology***
- *Objectives set in **river basin management plans RBMP***
- ***Programme of measures PoM** to achieve objectives as part of plans*
- *Attention paid to socio-economic impacts through a process of duly **justified exemptions***
- ***Other water-related EU legislation** is contributing to these objectives (e.g. **Nitrates Directive**)*



# What is WFD good status?



Means meeting all environmental quality standards for chemicals set at EU level:

- 33 priority substances Directive 2008/105/EC
- 8 other substances previously regulated 76/464/EEC codified 2006/11/EC
- => Currently under revision

Means an expression of the quality of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems including: biological, hydromorphological and chemical elements

## • Good surface water status



– Good **chemical** status + good **ecological** status



## • Good groundwater status



– Good **chemical** status + good **quantitative** status



Means meeting all standards for chemicals:

- quality standards set at EU level: pesticides and nitrates
- threshold values: standards set at national level

Means ensuring a long-term balance between abstraction and recharge, protecting as well associated surface waters and ecosystems.





## Most of the RBMP are in place

RBMP adopted (23)  
Danube RBMP ready

Consultation on-going  
or not started (4)

*\* Norway implements the WFD*

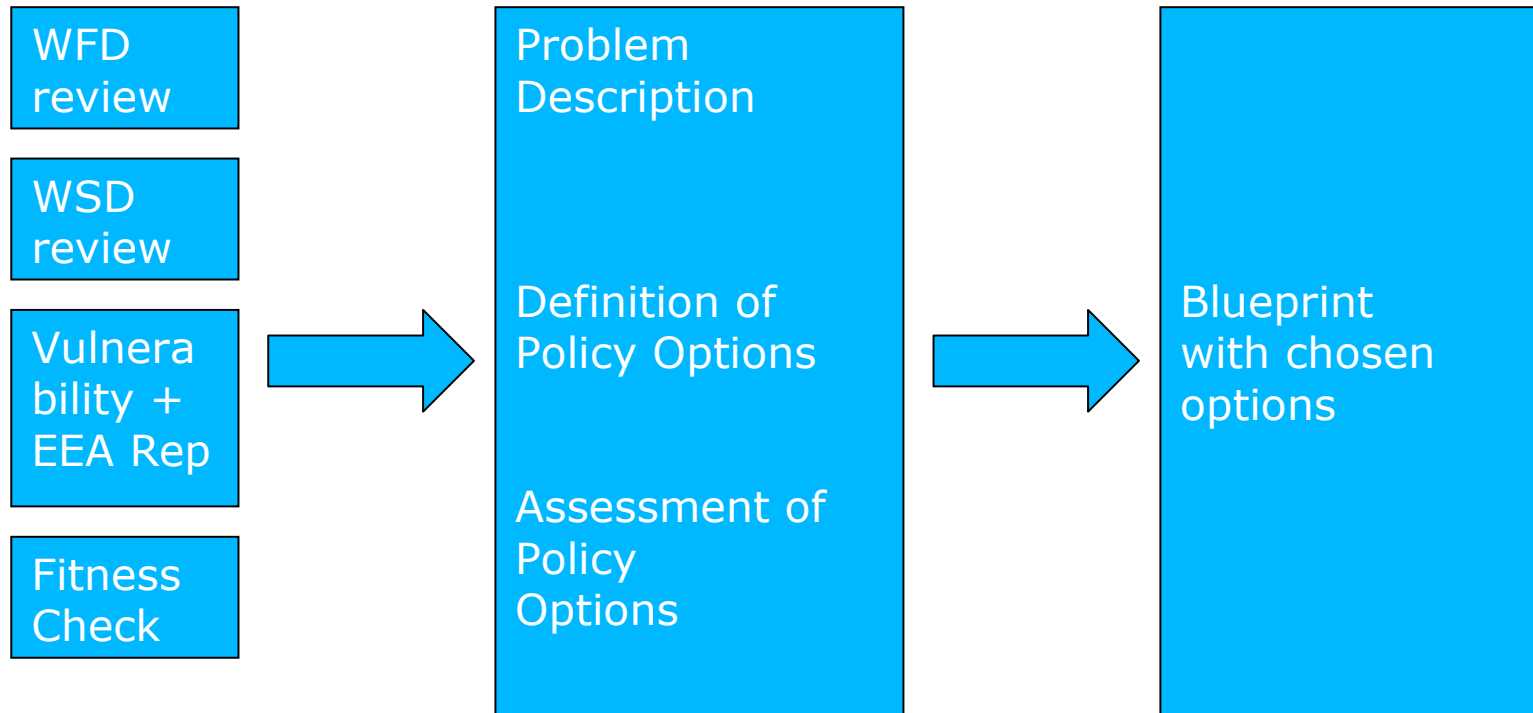


## Why a Blueprint Communication?

- *Review of Water Framework Directive implementation (WFD Art 18)*
- *Review Water Scarcity and Droughts policy implementation (Council Conclusions WSD 2007)*
- *Review of water resources vulnerability (contribution to CC adaptation review – 2009 White Paper)*
- *Fitness Check on policy for protection of fresh water resources (agreement w SG in 2010)*
- *State of Water report from EEA to be published*

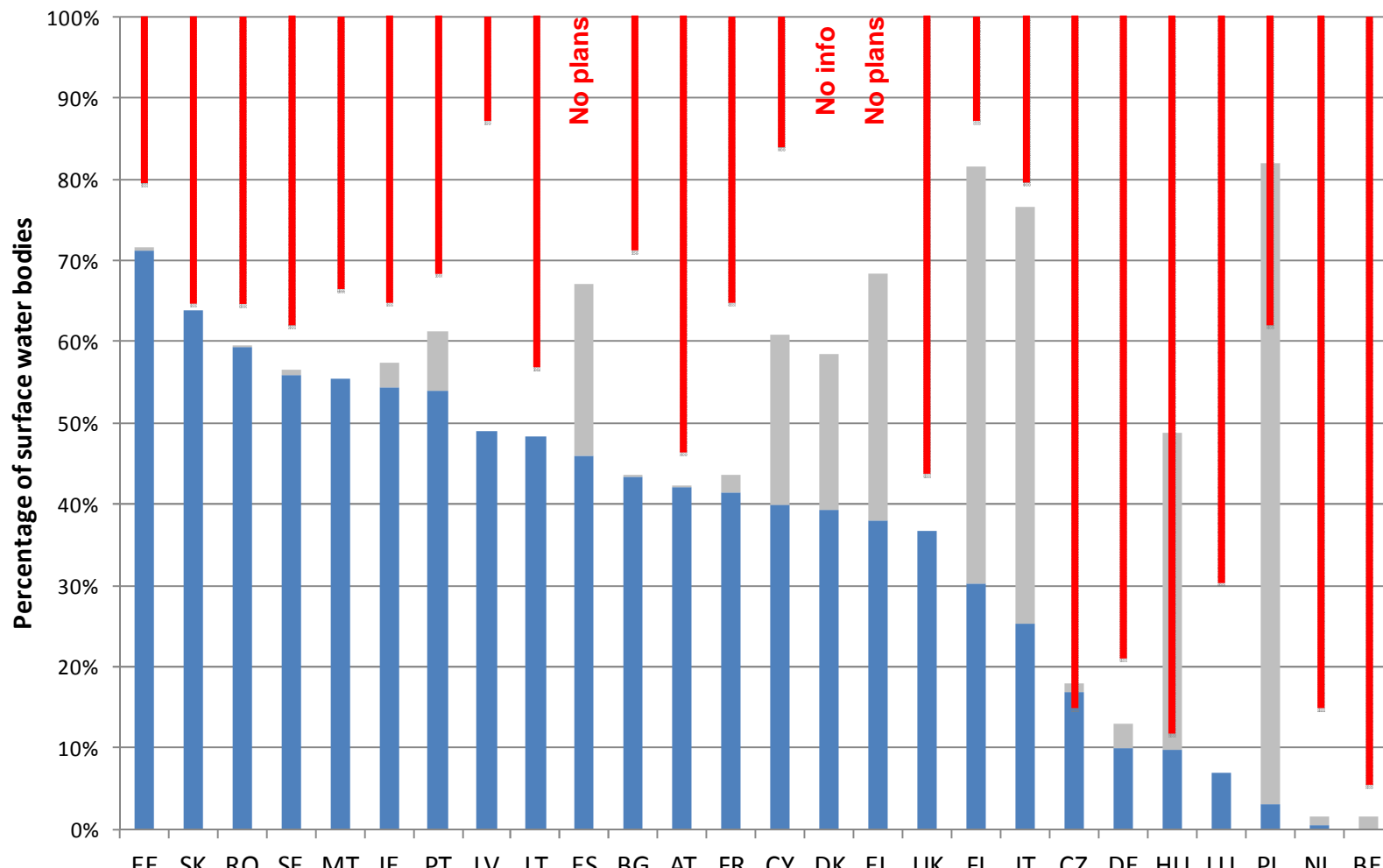
**→ Publication expected on 17 November 2012.**

# Blueprint Impact Assessment



# Starting points & ambitions

- Good Ecological Status
- Unknown Ecological Status
- Exemptions





## **2. Agriculture in the River Basin Management Plans**



# Pressures from agriculture on water

*Diffuse pollution*



*Personal photo (France, Lorraine region)*

# Pressures from agriculture on water



*Point source  
pollution*

*Personal photo (France, Lorraine region)*





# Pressures from agriculture on water



*Over-abstraction*

# Pressures from agriculture on water

*Flow regulation &  
hydro-morphology  
alterations*



*Personal photo (Germany, Saarland)*





## **Preliminary results confirms agriculture is a significant pressure in > 90% of the RB**

*~90% of the RB: significant nitrate diffuse pollution*

*~80%: phosphate diffuse pollution*

*~75%: pesticide diffuse pollution*

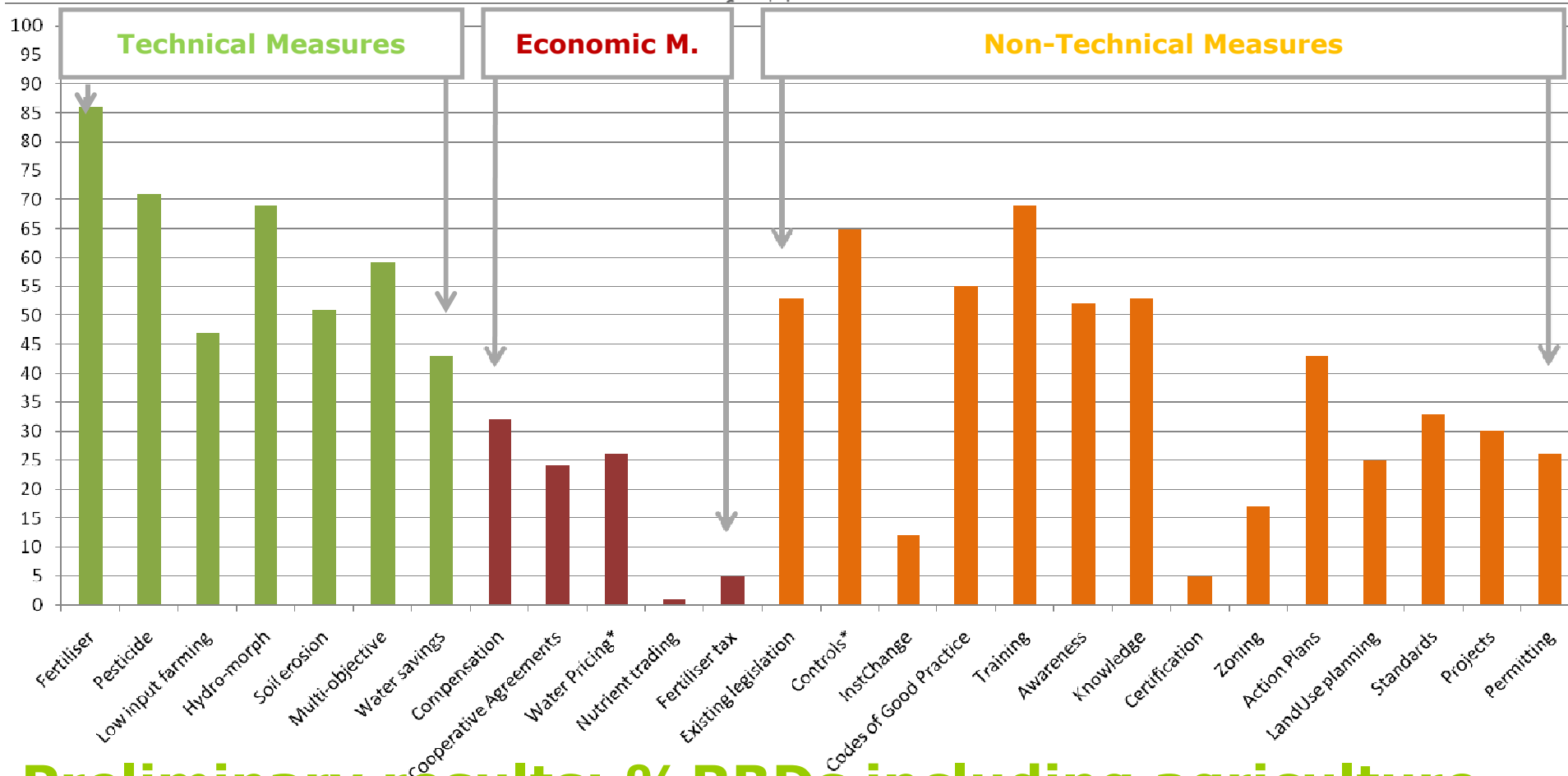
*~35%: over abstraction (underestimation)*

*~35%: pressure on the hydro-morphology*





European



## Preliminary results: %RBDs including agriculture measures in PoM

\* Measures by and large related to provisions already in place



## Agriculture in the RBMP:

- *Few mandatory measures*
- *Focus on the implementation of existing legislation: risk of "business as usual"*
- *Not clear how the measures will achieve the objectives*
- *The information regarding the geographical application & the extent of application are mostly lacking*
- *Information on how measures will be implemented (timing, financing, monitoring) are missing*
- *No link with the Rural Development programmes*
- *Several MS did not involve the farmers at all*

### **3. Implementing the WFD without the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy)**





## MS can not expect that CAP will pay for WFD implementation

- ***Polluter pays principle: Article 191(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union***
- ***CAP money is limited (10B.E/year for RDR)***
- ***Action at MS level is needed with an appropriate baseline for water protection and a national budget***



## Political commitment at national level is missing

- ***Weak political support*** in the MS for a significant baseline on water protection in agriculture.
- Agriculture remains a ***very social issue***
- A ***balance between voluntary & mandatory*** measures is nevertheless necessary. A political commitment is unavoidable.



## Illegal water abstraction should be effectively addressed (CIS conference in Louvain-La-Neuve, 2010)

- *Major problem in several **southern MS***
- ➔ *Illegal abstractions should be identified and farmers should be condemned. Latest technologies, administrative coordination are needed.*

## Water pricing is not implemented (CIS conference in Warsaw, 2011)

- *Limited recovery of the costs*
- *No incentive pricing*
- *Limited polluter-pays-principle implementation*
- *Volumetric pricing not systematic*

**→ Water should not be free.**

**Environmental cost should be considered.**



## Water allocation systems are often inappropriate (COM study, 2012)

- *Striking situations with **long term allocation**. Not acceptable in a context of climate change.*
- *Allocation systems don't build on ecosystem basic needs: concept of "**environmental flows**"*
- ➔ *Allocation system should be updated to take into account the **ecosystem basic needs** and to adapt to climate change*



## Proper water metering is still missing (COM study, 2012)

- *Metering as a basic tool for water management*
  - *Necessary to build a proper water pricing policy*
- *MS should make **water metering mandatory***



## A clear definition of water scarce area is needed

- *Not directly considered in the WFD. Basic tool to build policies.*
  - *Good progress of the CIS Expert Group on water scarcity (WEI+)*
- ***Water scarce areas should be clearly identified. Policies should build on that zoning***



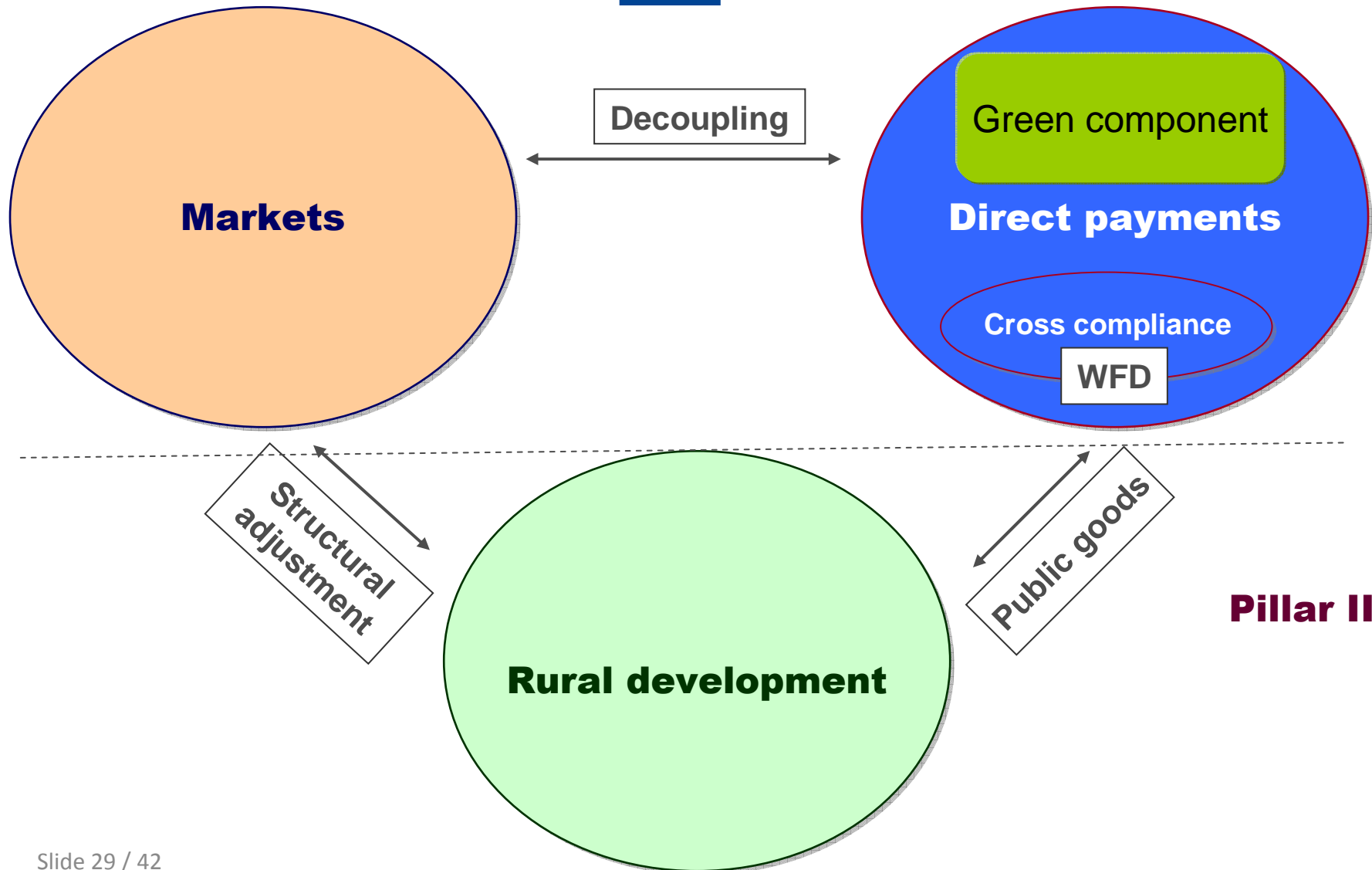
## **4. Implementing the WFD with the CAP**



# CAP is one relevant tool for the WFD implementation



**Pillar I**



**Pillar II**



# **The decoupling of the CAP payments is a major achievement for water protection**





## Rural Development is crucial for WFD:

- *Support to WFD voluntary measures:*
  - **Agri-environment (new art 29): low demanding crops, enhanced buffer strips,...**
  - **Support to investments as modernisation of irrigation systems (new art 46): safeguard mechanism under discussion at Council level**
  - **Support to trainings, awareness rising...**
- *Support to WFD mandatory measures (new art 31)*
- ➔ ***Remains a crucial tool to implement the WFD in complement with a significant baseline & national support.***



## Cross compliance helps

- *GAECs (**mandatory measures**) on water protection: permits for abstraction, groundwater protection, buffer strips*
  - *SMR (**mandatory provisions from selected directives**) on Nitrates Directive and, in the future, on WFD and Pesticide Framework Directive*
  - *WFD issues added to the **Farm Advisory System**.*
- ***WFD in cross compliance currently under discussion:** should cover basic standards European farmers should already comply with.*





## Green payments can help

- **Crop diversification** on arable land: minimum 3 crops (max 70% and min 5%)
- Parcels of **permanent grassland** shall be maintained at farm level
- 7% of arable land and permanent crops should be devoted to **ecological focus area** (fallow land, terraces, landscape features, buffer strips, etc.)

→ **measures relevant for water protection**





## **5. Some recommendations for the future**



## **A strategy mainly built on voluntary measures will lead to failure**

→ *A right balance between voluntary actions and a strong baseline of mandatory measures / rules needs to be set up. A clear commitment at political level is unavoidable.*

## Basic tools are necessary

→ *Mandatory water metering, proper water allocation, water pricing, programme to address illegal water abstraction*

## The legal baseline needs to be clear

→ so on one hand any **farmer knows the rules**, and on the other hand the authorities in charge of the CAP funds **can adequately set up Rural Development programmes & cross compliance requirements**.

## **We need to live with the income foregone rule from the WTO**

- *Confirmed limitation for CAP / State Aid support*
  - *Doesn't concern the private support*
  - *DG AGRI explains that flexibility exists: +20% can be granted*
- ➔ *MS have to live with that limitation and to use the available flexibility*

## Nothing will be possible without a proper coordination between agri authorities & water authorities

- *Difficult situation when water authority has the needs and the agriculture authority has the power.*
- ➔ *The political level should take its responsibilities and push for an improved cooperation of the administrations and a relevant distribution of the support.*

## **Advanced co-operation with the farmers' community at the different stages of the preparation of the PoM is important**

→ *It will ensure technical feasibility, acceptance and the expected success.*



## Training & awareness rising for farmers are crucial

- *Dialogue with the farmers helps*
  - *Demonstration farms work*
  - *The Farm Advisory System should play a role*
- ➔ *Significant action should be taken on training & awareness rising.*

## Conclusions:

- *Agriculture is a central issue in the WFD*
- *The CAP is one available tool for the WFD implementation, but significant action at national level is needed*
- *The CAP is improving regarding water protection issues*
- *MS should make the best use of the CAP tools in complement with national action*
- *We won't make it without a sincere political commitment*

## Relevant studies:

- *water uses in Europe (EEA, 2009):*

[http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/water-resources-across-europe/at\\_download/file](http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/water-resources-across-europe/at_download/file)

- *water pricing & water allocation policies in agriculture in Europe (Arcadis-Belgium, 2012 for DG ENV):*

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/water\\_agri.htm#water\\_pricing](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/water_agri.htm#water_pricing)

- *water saving potential in agriculture in Europe (BioIS, 2012 for DG ENV):*

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/water\\_agri.htm#water\\_saving](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/water_agri.htm#water_saving)