



Workshop on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive

Workshop held on the occasion of the Council meeting of the European Water Association (EWA) on 23 May 2003 in Lucerne, Switzerland

The work of the Strategic Co-ordination Group

The first part of the workshop was dedicated to the work of the Strategic Co-ordination Group (SCG). This group works on the implementation of the Water Framework Directive; the EWA as stakeholder takes part in its meetings as guest and also contributes to its work. Sigurd van Riesen, EWA's Secretary General, regularly represents the EWA on these meetings. He presented the work that the SCG has achieved so far.

Most of the Guidance Documents have been finalised by now, the formal publication will take place after the final editing of the documents (planned to be finished end of March). The European Commission will issue an interactive CD with all Guidance Documents (end of the 2003). There will be no translations of the Guidance Documents by the Commission; member states have to make their own translations.

Sigurd van Riesen then presented the focus that the SCG has given itself for the work in 2003 and 2004:

- 1) Carrying out the pilot testing exercise
- 2) Facilitating the intercalibration
- 3) Developing technical guidance on specific outstanding or new issues
- 4) Addressing of economical methodological aspects
- 5) Maintaining the network
- 6) Linking the Expert Advisory Fora to the Common Implementation Strategy
- 7) Reviewing the guidance documents for inclusion in a comprehensive " EU Manual for Integrated River Basin Management"

The pilot testing exercise consists of the testing of the Guidance Documents in 14 pilot river basins all over Europe.

To reflect these changes and to enable better exchange the working groups that work on the specific questions were rearranged. The new clusters and the former working groups of which they are composed are as following:

Working Group on "Ecological Status" (Cluster WG 2A)	Working Group on "Integrated River Basin Management" (Cluster WG 2B)	Working Group on "Groundwater" (WG 2C)	EAF Reporting (Cluster WG 2D)
WG 2.3 REFCOND - Reference conditions in inland waters WG 2.4 COAST - Typology, reference conditions and classification of transitional and coastal waters WG 2.5 Intercalibration WG 2.7 Monitoring	WG 2.1 Analysis of pressures and impacts WG 2.2 Heavily modified water bodies WG 2.6 WATECO (economic analysis) WG 2.9 Proclan - best practices in river basin planning WG 4.1 Pilot River Basins	WG 2.8 Ground water (to be established after the last meeting of EAF Groundwater)	WG 3.1 GIS



The discussion showed that there was a particular interest in the pilot testings. It was thus thought interesting to do a workshop on this topic. It also became clear that several attendants are already more or less involved in some of the pilot testing exercises.

As the information gained from the SCG meetings is very important the information from it should be a fixed agenda item for the EWA meetings. It was proposed to do two more workshops on WFD topics until the next Council meeting.

The Groundwater Directive

Bojan Zmaic (Croatia), Chairman of EWA's groundwater task group, reported on the activities related to the drawing of the groundwater directive, which will be a daughter directive of the Water Framework Directive. The Expert Advisory Forum - Groundwater, at whose fifth meeting Bojan Zmaic took part, does the preparatory work for this Directive. He reported to the workshop attendants about the activities of the group and especially about the contents and outputs of this meeting.

The meeting had been divided into five parts:

- (1) Report on groundwater related-research activities
 - characteristics of groundwater, determination of lead and cadmium, sampling of ground water, chemical composition
- (2) Report on the economic study on groundwater
 - two case studies: point source pollution; diffuse pollution
- (3) Report on Extended Impact Assessment on the Groundwater Directive proposal
- (4) Summary of CIS Guidance documents directly relevant to the GWD
- (5) Discussion of the GWD draft

On the basis of these discussions a draft text for the Groundwater Directive will be refined. Final proposal will be done by the Commission and set out to European Council and Parliament afterwards.

Bojan Zmaic, in his written comment to the chairman of the EAF Groundwater, particularly pointed out the importance of educational activities for the implementation of the new directive. Chairman had agreed to this proposal and promised to do his best to accommodate the comment in the next draft.

The discussion showed that there are several questions about the contents of the directive that could not all be answered, given the extent and complexity of the topic. Everybody was thus invited to participate to EWA's groundwater working group. For those interested in further information Bojan Zmaic pointed out that there will be a conference organised by Water UK about groundwater on 10 July 2003.

All participants enjoyed the workshop very much and asked to organise a similar event for the next Council meeting.

This report and the transparencies which were used at the workshop can be found on the EWA homepage at <http://www.EWAonline.de> → Workshops and conferences → Past events

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