



Summary of Workshop on “Water Related EU Directives” 3 November 2000 Tallinn, Estonia

An international workshop on Water Related EU Directives was organised in combination with the regular meetings of the European Technical and Scientific Committee's (ETSC) and the Management Committee (MC) in November. The workshop was organised by Mr. Enn Karr from the Estonian Water Association together with the ETSC and took place in the Ministry of the Environment, Estonia.

The programme consisted of a range of presentations outlining the Estonian activities and viewpoints in relation to Water Pollution Control and Water Management in Estonia as well as presentations of three major European water directives.

Mr. Enn Karr welcomed the participants and introduced the workshop after which Mr. Harry Liiv, Dep. Sec. Gen. of the Ministry of Environment spoke about the institutional and administrative system in the Estonian water sector.

Mr. Marko Tuurmann, Estonia spoke about the Water Pollution Control in Estonia and gave a very useful and interesting overview of the situation including construction standards.

Mr. Frank Sperling, Germany introduced the new Water Framework Directive (WFD) and in particular articles 4 and 5, which form the core of the directive. Mr. Sperling also described the way in which the requirements of the directive are being implemented in Germany. It can be mentioned that the MC has decided to form a new working group dealing with the WFD under the chairmanship of Mr. Sperling.

Mr. Claus Hagebro, Denmark spoke about the Urban Waste Water Directive, the concept and its implementation in the Member States. This directive is nearly 10 years old and there is a lot of experience from the implementation. In Estonia the implementation is on its way and the audience had several questions.

Mr. Jörg Londong, Germany gave a presentation regarding small waste water treatment plants, which is of major interest in Estonia with large rural areas and many small agglomerations. Sludge from septic tanks was also discussed.

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Mr. Matsché, Austria spoke about the on-going revision of the Sludge Directive and the general problems with sludge management. Disposal of sludge on landfills will be forbidden in 3 years in Austria and this presents a major challenge in many places.

Mr. Bojan Zmaic, Croatia was the last speaker and gave a statement with his personal comments and conclusions regarding European water management. This was a nice different and provocative contribution, which gave food for thoughts and triggered several questions and other viewpoints.

Mr. Enn Karr closed the workshop summarising a bit and thanked all the speakers.

National workshops like this one supported by the EWA/ETSC have been organised earlier in Portugal and in Hungary with major success and seem to be a cost-efficient and attractive way to provide direct input and support to national member associations. Hopefully, this kind of activities will also promote the image of EWA as the proper European association and encourage national associations and individuals to become more active.