



## Workshop "Water Related EU Directives"

On 1 June 2001 the European Water Association (EWA) organised a workshop about water related EU directives. The workshop took place on the occasion of the Association's annual Council meeting, the governing body, in Brittany.

### **The Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive**

The general principles of the 1991 Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive were presented by Philippe Duchène (F). He recapitulated the main aims of the Directive, the target dates for prescribed treatment stages, the requirements for effluents and the criteria for sampling and conformity.

A special focus was given to the technical consequences of the regulations, especially of the obligation to reach a 95% reduction of BOD<sub>5</sub>. A French enquiry had shown that due to this requirement several treatment processes become outdated for more than 2,000 p.e. if used without complementary treatment. Among these outdated process are conventional activated sludge, chemical treatment and also natural lagooning, the latter despite of the special regulations in the Directive.

### **Urban Wastewater Treatment in Coastal Areas**

Raymond Pinoit (F) presented the outcome of a survey drawing a European overview on specific questions of urban wastewater treatment in coastal areas. The information was presented for 10 European countries, containing among others regulations for urban wastewater treatment in coastal areas, specific technologies, requirements for treatment and discharge of storm water overflows, and the practice of a final effluent disinfection.

The survey showed that in general there are no special regulations or technologies for urban wastewater treatment in coastal areas. It did however show that in case there are (locally or regionally) specific regulations in coastal areas this is mainly due to a designation of the area as bathing or shellfish area. Additionally, in some countries the requirements correspond to the requirements for sensitive areas, or parts of the coast were designated as sensitive area.

### **The Water Framework Directive**

The second part of the workshop focussed on the Water Framework Directive. Sigurd van Riesen (D) gave an overview about the main regulations and articles of the Directive.

This included the target dates for the implementation of the different actions and the rules for management and co-ordination in river basins. The environmental objectives of the Directive were presented as well as the principle of the recovery of costs for water services. The lecture also dealt with the combined approach and the list of dangerous substances.

### **EWA's Involvement in the WFD Working Group "Economics"**

To facilitate the coherent implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the European Community identified among others the need to establish working groups that develop informal guiding and supporting documents on key aspects of the WFD. One of these working groups deals with economic questions.

On behalf of the EWA's expert in this working group, Bob Breach (UK), a short introduction about water related economic questions in general and in the context of the Water Framework Directive was given by John Martin (UK). It was focused especially on the cost aspect.

### **The Revision of the EU Bathing Water Directive**

The workshop ended with the discussion of the Bathing Water Directive which is currently under revision. Kirsten Overmann (D) presented the general development of bathing water quality in the last 25 years and the aims and principles of the revision. This included the proposed new regulations for standards and analysis as well as the ideas about management actions and nutrient parameters. Certain new definitions and the possible technical implications of the proposed standards were discussed as well.

It came out that the European Commission's ideas about the revision are so far still unprecise and need to be clarified. It is however clear that the revised Directive is planned to go beyond mere standards and towards the management of a bathing area, which will imply big changes for the Member States.