



# The Water Blueprint

**Water Resources Unit  
Directorate General for Environment  
European Commission**



# Blueprint environmental baseline

- *Water status:*
- **The picture is clear**
  
- **Climate change, economic and demographic developments are likely to make the achievement of the good status objective more difficult**
  
- **If early action is not taken, later action will be more complex and costly**



# Blueprint policy baseline: where we are

- Review of Water Framework Directive implementation (RBMPs)
- Review Water Scarcity and Droughts policy implementation
- Review of water resources vulnerability
- Fitness Check of fresh water policy
- EEA reports & other studies



# Objectives: where we want to be

## •*Goal*

- **Ensure sustainability of all activities that impact on water, thereby securing the availability of good-quality water for sustainable and equitable water use**

## •*Objectives (something better, more and new)*

- **Better implementation**
- **More integration**
- **Few new legal proposals to complete current framework**



# Blueprint impact assessment V

## 12 priority problems

1. Lack of water pricing
2. Lack of metering
3. Lack of labeling of traded goods
4. Land use/Agricultural impacts (NWRM)
5. Inefficiency in buildings/appliances
6. Inefficient water infrastructure
7. Lack of water re-use
8. Governance
9. Target setting
10. Drought management
11. Understanding costs and benefits
12. Knowledge base



# Blueprint policy options

- *Enforcement of legislation will be continued*
- *Early action is needed for uptake in 2015 RBMPs*
- *New policy options are categorised as:*
  - **Voluntary options**
  - **Regulatory options**
  - **Conditionality**
  - **Funding priority**



# Land use and ecological status

- Guidance on Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)
- Green CAP pillar I to support NWRM (ecological focus areas)
- Use Structural & Cohesion Funds & EIB loans to support NWRM
- Apply GMES services to detect illegal abstraction
- Guidance on ecological flow and water accounts



# Water efficiency I

- Enforce water pricing/cost-recovery obligations under the WFD, including metering when relevant
  - Make water pricing/cost recovery an ex ante condition under the Rural Development and Cohesion policy funds
  - Develop CIS Guidance on trading schemes and on cost/benefit assessment
  - Make water use reduction a pre-condition for some irrigation projects under Rural Development





# Water Efficiency II

- Develop CIS Guidance on water accounts and ecological flow
  - Develop CIS Guidance on target-setting
  - Spread best practices/tools to achieve a sustainable economic leakage level
  - Include recommendations on water efficiency in the European semester process



# Vulnerability I

- Develop CIS Guidance on Natural Water Retention Measures (Green Infrastructure)
  - Green CAP pillar I to support Natural Water Retention Measures (through ecological focus areas)
  - Use Structural & Cohesion Funds & EIB loans to support Natural Water Retention Measures
  - Enforce WFD requirements relevant to drought risk management



# Vulnerability II

- Develop Flood Risk Management Plans
- Propose (regulatory) instrument on standards for water re-use
- Further develop the European Drought Observatory



# The Blueprint package

- Blueprint Communication COM(2012)673+ Impact Assessment SWD(2012) 381 & 382

- Report on River Basin Management Plans COM(2012)670

- Commission Staff Working Document, European Overview on River Basin Management Plans, Volumes 1 and 2 SWD(2012) 379

- Commission Staff Working Document, River Basin Management Plans, Volumes 3 to 30 (All Member States + Norway) SWD(2012) 379

- Communication on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Drought Policy COM(2012)672 + accompanying Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2012)380

- Fitness Check

**All docs available at**