



20-21 SEPTEMBER
**EU WATER
CONFERENCE
2018**



Vienna - Austria
#EUWater2018



e 2 0
u 1 8
• a t Austrian
Presidency
of the
Council of the
European Union



EU Water Legislation – fit for purpose ?

*A view from the
Member States*

*Jean-Paul Lickes
WD Luxembourg*

The Water Directives: WFD, FD, & Daughter Directives (GWD, PSD)



- Mainly a success story
 - Harmonizing the approach and methods we are dealing with water in the EU
 - Increased knowledge about what our water (SW/GW) need for a good status
 - Increased the awareness of the resource water especially in regards of the different pressures
 - It has enhanced the cooperation between the stakeholders and the authorities through the measures implemented in the RBMP

But MS strongly believe WFD needs a revision !

How can we make the WFD fit for the future while maintaining a high level of ambition?



Harmonization of the «Chemical Issue» in the EU Water legislation

- River basin specific substances (part of ecological status) and priority substances (criteria assessing the chemical status) mix-up
- Pharmaceutical and microplastic strategy will also impact this part in future
- Even more (overarching) EU Environmental Legislation that interferes: Reach, Pesticides, Biocides, etc....that is taken without much coordination with the water sector



Communication with the public and reporting issues

- Create a public participation in a more effective and less prescriptive way
 - Make use of the new electronic media that exist nowadays to lighten the hearings
 - Combine the RBMP and the PoM and reduce the 6 month period actually foreseen
- Communication on Progress : A pre-eminent concern for all MS
 - We have collectively failed to communicate the positive results so far
 - The one-out-all-out principle does not reflect the positive trends made towards good status and all the efforts accomplished by MS so far
- Reporting issues on RBMP and PoM and FRMP
 - Because of administrative complexity, failed to interest the greater public
 - Current reporting procedure is of considerable burden for all MS (blocks resources not available for water real management issues)
 - Streamlining of reporting was also the aim of EU COM Fitness Check

What could be beyond 2027 ?

- What happened so far:
 - 2016 discussion started and was titled « lessons learned from implementing the WFD » and MS recognized the urgent need to better understand the upcoming challenges in regard of the 2027 deadline of the end of the third RBMP
 - Following the Thought Starter (developed under the NL presidency), in 2017 two documents were generated in cooperation with COM: the paper on « Article 4(4) time extensions » (Malta) and on « Natural conditions » (Tallinn)
 - At the Tallinn WD meeting the “Consultation Group” was mandated to work on viable approaches for the 2027 issue and to help and support the review process for 2019.
- Main outcome of our internal discussions: large consensus that MS have the ambition to continue the efforts !
 - Many MS need more time because of technical feasibility and disproportionate costs
 - All MS have to deal with uncertainties, new knowledge and new challenges, they have to integrate these facts into their water management

What could be beyond 2027 ?

- Take into account of uncertainties and extension of the deadline beyond the 2027 should be considered
 - Continuous MS efforts should not be frustrated by numerous infringement procedures in front of the CJEU because of not reaching targets
 - Shifting baseline phenomena (e.g. climate change) could not possibly be foreseen by the founding fathers of the directive
 - New scientific insights trigger legislative flexibility and adaptations



What could be beyond 2027 ?

- Practicalities of this solution include:
 - Measures to deal with the uncertainties beyond the 2027 horizon
 - Better management for large-scale (and diffuse) pressures that could now be better incorporated and their solutions integrated
 - Several MS propose at least 3 more cycles up to 2045 to avoid lowering the objectives and minimizing loss of ambition
 - Streamlining other optimization processes (e.g. common monitoring) and efforts in EU environmental policies



Conclusion

- The WFD has been very helpful so far, and we need to adapt it so it could still play its role in future too!
 - The time is running up...the 2027 deadline is approaching

This should be an open process...so lets talk about it...we (MS) are all willing to listen to you!



Thank you for listening

