

**Implementation of a
Water Framework Directive***
**requires River Basin Agency
support & full involvement**

(*) *EWFD*



European Water Framework Directive (EWFD) enacted in 2000, asks 27 member states to implement a strict and structured approach of the policy for preservation of water resources.

By 2015, following 4 goals should be reached:

1. Non degradation of waters;
2. Achievement of good status, or good potential for each water bodies;
3. Removal of hazardous substances;
4. Observance of other Directives (nitrates,...).

EWFD = seeking results instead of setting up practical means (*previous practice*).

Strict implementation schedule:

- identifying river basin districts by 2003;
- diagnosis by 2005;
- public consultation in 2006 & 2008;
- enforcement of measures by 2009;
- constant reporting on efforts made.

Possible adjustment as long as it is justified:

- deadlines can be postponed;
- derogatory measures for some waters;

The River Basin Agency achieved diagnosis:

- water bodies have been classified according to possible status (*good status, or other*) ;
- planning and scheduling is on the way thru a river basin management plan;
- economical analysis for cost recovery thru polluter payer principle (*level for tariff*);
- Public consultation develops public awareness (*and involvement*) about water policy...

A selection of **major issues** (*among 13 identified*)
for Rhone He basin:

- **water and spatial planning** should be connected;
- **hydroelectricity** facing 2 objectives: renewable energy as well as aquatic ecosystem preservation;
- significant effort required for **pesticides** removal;
- **water & public health** to deal with prevention + risk management;
- necessity to constantly **evaluate efficiency of every action** strategies.

To conclude: enjoying a river basin structure has been of a big help;

Remaining questions:

- Standardization between 27 European states;
- Should surface & groundwaters be jointed?
- Too many toxic substances to be considered!
- Which priority given to wastewater directive?
- Which policy for agriculture?
- Who can afford control of flooding risk?
- Integration within each member State policy.