



# **Integration of water issues into RDPs**

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**Claire MCCAMPBELL  
DG Environment  
Unit C1 – water**

## OVERVIEW

- *RDP process and importance for WFD, FD*
- *What DG ENV assessed in negotiation of draft RDPs*
- *What we wanted/didn't*
- *Options for improvement*

## RDP process

- Draft RDPs submitted to COM
- AGRI conduct Inter service consultation
  - Obtain ENV comments
  - AGRI send observation letter to MS
  - Meetings between DG AGRI (&ENV for key issues), MS to address observations\*
  - MS send draft final RDPs
- negotiation on remaining issues
- Adoption of RDPs

## Importance for WFD/FD

- RDPs establish funding framework for 20% of the CAP budget for next 7 years
- Agriculture is a major pressure reported for 90% of RBDs, must be addressed to allow the objectives of the WFD being met
- RDPs reported as main source of funding in 1<sup>st</sup> RBMPs programme of measures
- RDP potential for natural flood management measures for FRMP

**\* where meetings were held to discuss observations the RDPs improved more in terms of integration of water/environment issues**

# What we assessed to check for integration of WFD and FD into RDPs

- ❖ SWOT
- ❖ NEEDS
- ❖ STRATEGY
- ❖ EX ANTE CONDITIONALITY 5.2  
(WFD Art 9 pricing policy in agriculture)
- ❖ BUDGET
- ❖ MEASURES
- ❖ INDICATORS

The common agricultural policy should take better account of water concerns, say EU Auditors

Luxembourg, 13/05/2014



Framework Directive.

A report published today by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) reveals that the EU has been only partially successful in integrating water policy goals into the common agricultural policy (CAP). The audit highlighted weaknesses in the two instruments currently used to integrate water concerns into the CAP (namely crosscompliance and rural development) and pointed out delays and weaknesses in the implementation of the Water

[Special Report \(No 4/2014\): "Integration of EU water policy objectives with the CAP: a partial success"](#)

# SWOT – General Description

## ➤ *What we were looking for*

- Does the general description of the environment describe the water situation using WFD terminology?
- Does the water description use up-to-date data? What are the sources?
- Does the description align with the pressures identified in the WFD RBMPs?
- is intensive agricultural land use identified as a flood risk factor

## ➤ *What we questioned*

- General statements about pressures without clear information on the extent of the problem
- No reference to WFD Art. 5 report, either from 2009 or from 2012 (using only agri data)
- Pressures identified in the RBMPs not included in the SWOT
- Lack of information regarding HYDROMORPHOLOGY and how it affects good ecological status!

# Strategy – Description of Priority 4b and 5a

## *What we were looking for*

- *Specific references to water legislation as a key consideration/objective of the overall strategy*
- *Evidence that sustainability is a guiding principle of the RD policy*
- *Specific reference to WFD, Floods in descriptions of 4b and P5a.*
- ***Estimation of WFD gap to good status and contribution of RDP in closing this***

## *What we questioned*

- *Focussing on economic competitiveness and a few “light green” measures*
- *Weak descriptions/no descriptions of priority 4b and 5a*
- *Not mentioning all the identified water pressures (SWOT) as goals to overcome in P4b or 5a*

# NEEDS

## *What we were looking for*

- *Specific needs for water - well described, linked to WFD*

### *E.g.*

- *Reduced **nutrient load** from agriculture (to improve the quality of surface waters)*
- *reducing **water consumption** and restoring ecological flow*
- *Achieve the **ecological functioning** of water bodies, taking into account the flood protection requirements*
- *Implementation of the WFD and **restoration of water bodies***

## *What we questioned*

- *- Not having needs developed that address the pressures identified in the SWOT...commonly the case for Hydromorphological impacts*
- *- vague needs like "Ensuring the sustainability of agriculture"*
- *- improving water efficiency (was this for the benefit of the farmer, the environment or both ?)*

## Ex ante conditionality 5.2

- DG ENV assessed compliance with EX ANTE 5.2, on water pricing and cost recovery in the agriculture sector (implementation of WFD article 9)
- Applies to investments in irrigation under Focus area 5 A
- Where implementation of water pricing has deficiencies, these must be addressed by December 2016
- An action plan in the RDP should specify the steps to be implemented
  - **E.g. extension of volumetric pricing for all abstractions (including self-abstraction)**
  - **Inclusion of environment and resource costs in price**
- will be assessed by EC in Dec 2016, non-compliance can have implications for funding.



## Measure 4: Investments in physical assets

### *What we were looking for*

- *Water saving technologies*
- *Installations for waste water treatment on farms*
- *Modernisation of manure storage and handling facilities*
- *Non-productive investments*
  - ❖ **Wetland restoration**
  - ❖ **River restoration**
- *Multi-pronged approach to irrigation in water scarce regions:*
  - ❖ Rainwater harvesting, water storage, switch to drip irrigation, reducing losses in network



### *What we spent much time negotiating*

- ***Irrigation measures with CLEARLY DEFINED Art. 46 criteria linked to WFD requirements for achieving good quantitative status***
- ***Drainage measures CLEARLY linked to WFD objectives to avoid further degradation***

## Measure 8: Investments in Forests

### *What we were looking for*

- *Afforestation of riparian areas with native trees*
- *Afforestation of drinking water zones to protect quality*
  - *Preventive flood control operations - planting of forests in headwater areas*
- *Re-establishment of forests to generate the small water cycle as a climate/drought measure*

### *What we negotiated*

- ***Criteria to ensure commercial forestry did not deteriorate water status***

# Measure 10 Agri-Environment-climate

## *What we were looking for*

- *Measures address all identified water pressures*
- *Measures specifically designed for WFD*
- *Targeting of measures (to address risk, secure good status)*
- *Cooperation possibilities were used to get large scale uptake*

## *What we questioned*

- *Not addressing a pressure e.g. no hydromorphology measures*
- *Partially addressing a pressure e.g. reducing nutrient inputs on pastureland but not on arable land*
- *Not targeting pollution (N,P, PPPs) measures to failing Water Bodies*
- *Or not targeting risk areas identified in the SWOT (NVZs, flood, erosion)*
- *Missed opportunities for landscape-scale projects*

## **Measure 12**

### **WFD payments**

- *Payments for WFD mandatory measures*
- *potentially only one MS (france) using this measure*

*Overall a missed opportunity for WFD implementation !*

## **Measure 16 Cooperation**

- *Pilot projects geared towards innovative approaches to water management*
- *Taking advantage of landscape scale for :*
  - Floodplain restoration, wetlands (quality and quantity), afforestation of riparian forests, continuous forest coverage, reconnecting of hydraulic annexes, Natural bank stabilisation, Elimination of river bank protection, restoration of low-order streams (to improve quality)*

# Next steps ...possibly in RDP modifications

Once RBMPS are adopted ...

- ❖ Updated SWOT – clear depiction of status of WBs and reasons for failing good status
- ❖ Define Needs in line with objectives of the WFD
- ❖ Make contribution toward WFD a clear objective for the strategy
- ❖ Update indicators to track progress on WFD criteria
- ❖ Include measures that address all pressures and are designed to address the identified needs
  
- ❖ Revisit measures that may further exacerbate water pressures (\*review of permits for abstraction)
- ❖ Planning of multi beneficial NWRM to deliver on WFD, FD, biodiversity objectives

**\*Env will undertake a further analysis of the finally adopted plans and aim to publish a report end 2016**

# Thanks for listening

