



Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Objectives, achievements, future...

Celebración del día Mundial del Agua en Canarias
Jornada Técnica Planificación Hidrológica en las
Demarcaciones Canarias

Tenerife, 22 March 2018

Elisa Vargas Amelin Elisa.vargas-amelin@ec.europa.eu

European Commission, DG Environment

Diversity of uses, aspirations, pressures and impacts

Water is a cross-cutting issue





• Scope

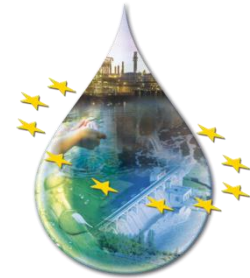
- Protection and management of all waters, including rivers, lakes, transitional-, coastal- and groundwater
- Covering all impacts on waters
- Completed/extended scope: Groundwater Directive, Priority substances, Floods Directive, Intercalibration, Marine Strategy, water scarcity and droughts...

• Objectives

- Protect and enhance water bodies
- Achievement of good status / potential
- No deterioration
- Exemptions under certain conditions

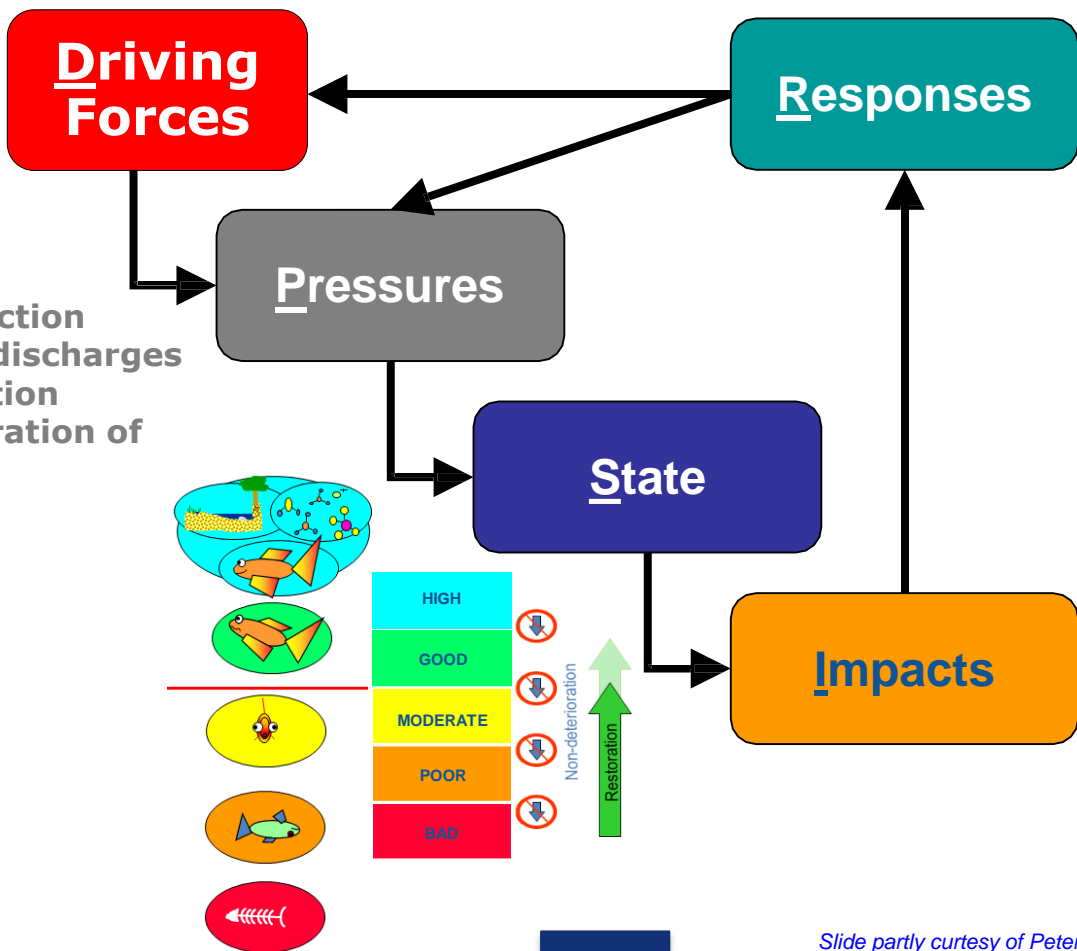
• Tools

- River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures
- Linked legislation: urban waste water treatment, DWD, bathing waters, nitrates from agriculture, habitats, etc.
- Public participation



EU Water Framework Directive DPSIR approach and 6-years planning cycle

- **Agriculture**
- **Urbanisation**
- **Energy**
- **Industrial development**

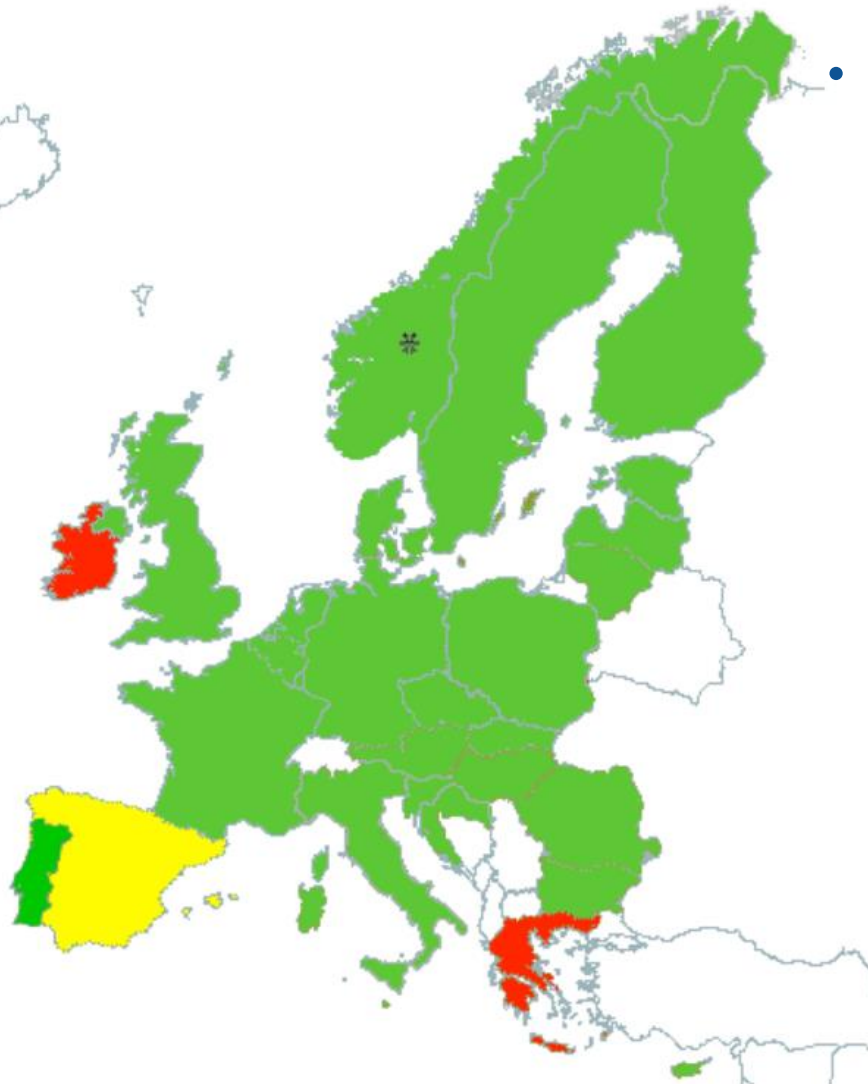


- **Water abstraction**
- **Wastewater discharges**
- **Diffuse pollution**
- **Physical alteration of water bodies**

- **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive**
- **Nitrates Directive**
- **Industrial Emissions Directive**
- **WFD basic measures (regulation of abstraction, discharge, modification)**
- **RBMP planning process**

- **Organic enrichment**
- **Eutrophication**
- **Altered habitats**
- **Reduced connectivity**
- **Loss of ecosystem services**
- **Socio-economic impacts**

- RBMPs and FRMPs 2015-2021



- **1st Cycle**

- The WFD and other water-related directives, have contributed to improving water protection in the EU. In general, Europeans can safely drink tap water and swim in thousands of coastal areas, rivers and lakes across the EU. Pollution from urban, industrial and agricultural sources is subject to regulation
- Yet, in 2012 the status of over 40 % of water bodies was unknown.
- Significant pressures from the agricultural sector (additional measures needed beyond Nitrates Directive), waste waters, industrial activities, limitations on works related to EQS, over-abstraction, hydromorphological alterations (bad application of 4(7))...

- **4th Implementation Report: ES MS REPORT**

- Masas en riesgo, mejor evaluación del estado, MAMM, estado cuantitativo aguas subterráneas, medición caudales, establecimiento caudales ambientales, exenciones, política de precios...



Evaluation of EU water policy

- Drinking Water Directive (2016)
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (ongoing)

Fitness Check (ongoing)

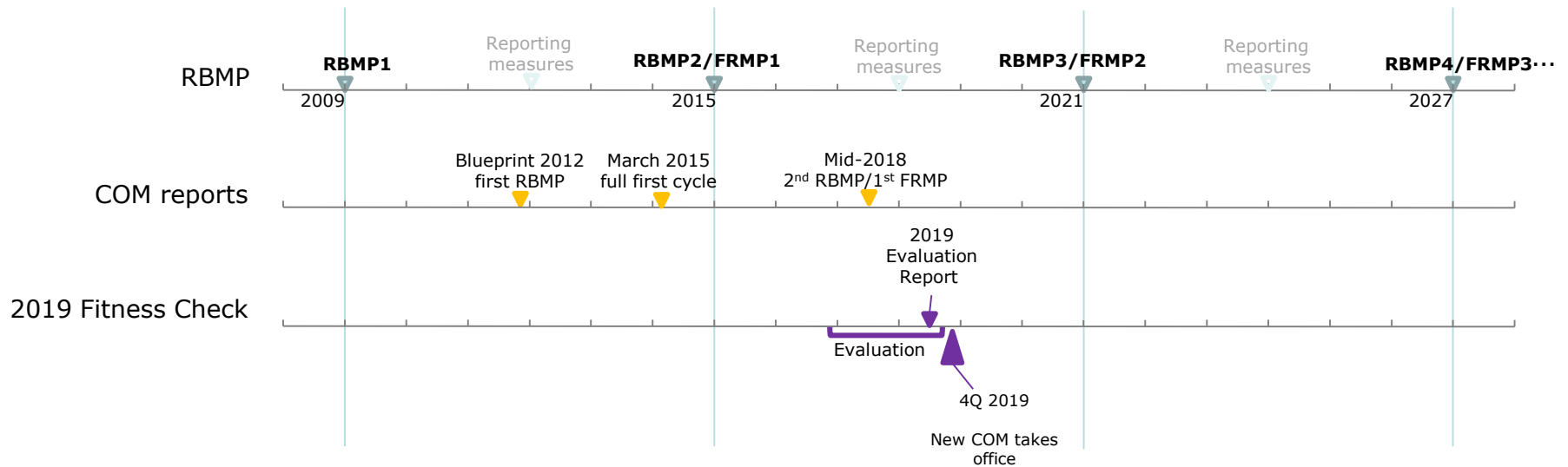
- Water Framework Directive
 - ✓ Environmental Quality Standards Directive
 - ✓ Groundwater Directive
- Floods Directive



Towards a Fitness Check WFD/FD

- Assessment of 2nd River Basin Management Plans and 1st Flood Risk Management Plans (2017/2018)
- Additional inputs
- Fitness Check (2019)

Tentative timetable



NB: This timetable is tentative and has not yet been formally validated by the European Commission



Assessment of RBMPs and FRMPs

- 3 dimensions: RBMPs, FRMPs and transboundary RBDs
- Format: EU overview and Member State annexes
- Process: analysis of key topics, previous recommendations; focus on progress and shortcomings
- Timing (small delay)
- EEA – State of Water Report 2018



Fitness Check EU WFD/FD

- Roadmaps published

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-5128184_en

https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2017-4989291_en

- Factual basis

- ✓ COM assessment of RBMPs and FRMPs
- ✓ Study supporting the evaluation of WFD & FD
- ✓ Integrated assessment (drivers, pressures, state, impacts, resources – and how policy areas interact)
- ✓ Economic study (BLUE2)
- ✓ ECA performance audit on floods (conclusion Q4 2018)
- ✓ Other evidence and contributions (public consultations, EU water conference in Vienna, OECD study “*water investment needs and financing capacities in the 28 EU MSs*”)

Fitness Check, cont'd

- Assessment criteria...
 - ✓ Effectiveness, Efficiency, Relevance, Coherence, EU value added
- ... and process
 - ✓ Elaborate baseline scenario, intervention logic, develop framework, methodology and work plan for evaluation of information and evidence,
 - ✓ Review relevant available information and evidence
 - ✓ Consultation with Member States and key stakeholders & public participation
- Commission report of fitness check (2019)



Implementation support

- ✓ *Common Implementation Strategy WP 2016-2018 and beyond*
- ✓ Enforcement strategy (including infringements)
- ✓ Water – Agriculture nexus: governance, investments, knowledge & innovation -> NWRMs included
(https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/a/abff972e-203a-4b4e-b42e-a0f291d3fdf9/SWD_2017_EN_V4_P1_885057.pdf)
- ✓ Water reuse regulation (minimum quality standards for irrigation)
- ✓ Pharmaceuticals in the environment
- ✓ Investment instruments (MFF post 2020)
- ✓ European Innovation Partnership on Water (<https://www.eip-water.eu/>)
- ✓ New Urban Water Agenda 2030, launched 2017
(<http://urbanwateragenda2030.eu/>)



¡Muchas gracias por su atención!

<http://water.europa.eu/policy>