EC Perspective on the WFD and Daughter Directive Groundwater

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Contents of the Presentation

- Objectives of the Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- Key features of the WFD
  - Characterisation
  - Monitoring
  - Programme of measures
- Main orientations of the future Groundwater Directive
WFD objectives

- Prevent further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems
- Promote sustainable water use based on long-term protection of available water resources
- Protect and improve the aquatic environment through e.g. specific measures related to discharge reductions or prohibition, and ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution (reversing trends)
- Contribute to mitigating effects of floods and droughts
- Long-term objective: achievement of good ecological and chemical status for surface waters and good quantitative and chemical status for groundwater by the end of 2015
Key features/milestones of the WFD

- Characterisation of water bodies, along with analysis of pressures and impacts: 2004
- Design of monitoring programmes that should be operational by the end of 2006 (river basins)
- First river basin management plan and design of programme of measures: 2009
- Programme of measures to be operational by 2012
Initial Characterisation (Annex II)

- Location and boundaries of GW-bodies
- Pressures
  - Diffuse sources of pollution
  - Point sources of pollution
  - Abstraction
  - Artificial recharge
- General character of overlying strata
- Directly dependent surface water ecosystems or terrestrial ecosystems
Further Characterisation (Annex II)

- GW-bodies identified as being at risk in failing good status are to be further characterised
  - Geological characteristics of the GW-body
  - Hydrogeological units
  - Interactions with soils, surface waters etc.
Groundwater monitoring

- Design of monitoring programme
  - surveillance, operational monitoring
  - frequency
  - additional monitoring (e.g. protected areas)

- Classification of quantitative / chemical status
  - comparability of results
  - presentation of monitoring results and classification
**Programme of measures**

- **Measures** designed to
  - protect waters,
  - control abstraction,
  - control point source discharges liable to cause pollution (permit, investigation),
  - prevent and control diffuse sources of pollution (prohibition, permit: based on investigations)

- **Periodic reviews of authorisations / registrations** based on regular monitoring
Key requirements of Article 17 WFD

- **Criteria for defining good groundwater chemical status**: taking into account the provisions of Annex V of the WFD

- **Criteria for identification and reversal of significant and sustained upward trends**: also based on WFD requirements

- **In absence of criteria**: MS shall establish appropriate criteria (at latest 5 years after entry into force of WFD) - if not: starting point for trend reversal is 75 % of existing EU standards
GROUNDWATER PROTECTION AGAINST POLLUTION

**WFD requirements**
- Environmental objectives (good status by 2015)
- River basin management, protection measures

**80/68/EEC Directive**
- Prevent/limit pollutant discharges (authorisations)
- Repeal planned in 2013 under the WFD

**Daughter Directive**
- Criteria for good chemical status, protection measures
- Specifications in support of WFD, no duplication
Key features of groundwater protection
Issues to be addressed

Risks of pollution from diffuse/point sources (incl. landfills, wastes, contaminated soils, agriculture)

Interactions with aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems? Links with SW status and EQS

Trend identification and reversal

Quality standards / thresholds?

Prevent / Limit
Considerations of trends

TREND REVERSAL

( trend of anthropogenic origin, reaching 75%)
environmentally significant

POOR STATUS

For naturally occurring substances

GOOD STATUS

75%

Standard or Threshold value

Background levels (WFD)

Conc.

Time scale
Orientations of the proposal

GROUNDWATER DAUGHTER DIRECTIVE (Art. 17 WFD)

PROPOSAL

Good chemical status
- Existing EU wide standards and pollutant thresholds for GW at risk

Pollution trend studies
- Links to measures, RBMP time frame, and point sources of pollution

Prevent/limit pollution
- Consideration of direct and indirect discharges
GOOD CHEMICAL STATUS

Basic criteria of the WFD
- Defined in Annex V of the WFD

Pollutant thresholds
- Established by MS by a fixed date

EU Quality standards
- Nitrates, plant protection and biocidal products

Commission proposal on EQS as appropriate
IDENTIFICATION OF POLLUTANTS

For groundwater bodies that were characterised at being at risk

“Pollutants” that may occur naturally

Specific synthetic pollutants

Links with analysis of pressures and impacts, requirements of Annex II.2 of WFD (initial and further characterisation)
TREND IDENTIFICATION AND REVERSAL

Any significant and sustained upward pollution trend should be reversed

- **Identification**
  - All pollutants

- **Trend reversal**
  - Links with the programme of measures
PREVENTION AND LIMITATION OF POLLUTION

Framework to stop further pollution and reduce existing pollution

- **Direct discharges**
  - Prohibition covered by the Directive 80/68/EEC and WFD

- **Indirect discharges**
  - Limit clause linked to GW chemical status

- **Control measures**
  - Specific trend assessment where appropriate
TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Prevent/limit pollution
Continuation of protection regime of Directive 80/68/EEC
Link with Article 11 of WFD

Investigations, authorisations
(Art. 5 Dir. 80/68)

Consideration of specifications on good chemical status
Orientations of the proposal

**Environmental objectives**

**TIMING**

**WFD**
- 2004: Characterisation, pressures and impacts
- 2005-2006: Economic study / Further characterisation
- 2009: River Basin Management Plan
- 2012: Programme of measures (Article 11 WFD)

**GWD**
- 2004: Forum of information and exchanges
- 2005-2006: Expected adoption/Threshold values
- 2009: RBMP, transitional arrangements

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On-going activities

- **Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) of the WFD**: discussion on best practices, including basic knowledge on water bodies

- **Research activities**: topic on „threshold values“ in the 2nd Priority 8 call (deadline: 13 January 2004) – Need for a strengthened co-ordination with on-going and starting projects, e.g. AQUATERRA and SNOWMAN
CIS organisational set-up

Water Directors
Steering of implementation process
Chair: Presidency, Co-chair: Commission

Strategic Co-ordination group
Co-ordination of work programme
Chair: Commission

Working Group 2.A
“Ecological Status”
Lead: D  Co-lead: C’ion JRC

Working Group 2.B
“Integrated River Basin Management”
Lead: F  Co-lead: SP

Working Group 2.C
“Groundwater”
(after end of EAF GW)
Lead: Commission  Co-lead: A

Working Group 2.D
“EAF Reporting”
Lead: Commission

Stakeholders, NGO's, Researchers, Experts, etc.

Expert Advisory Forum
1) Priority Substances
2) Groundwater (mid-2003)
Chair: Commission

Art. 21 Committee
European Commission - DG Environment
Unit B.1: Water, the Marine and Soil

Working Group 2C
Organisational set-up

STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION GROUP

STEERING GROUP
DG ENV (Chair), Austria (co-Chair), JRC

PLENARY FORUM

13.10.2003
Forum on Characterisation

28.01.2004
Forum on Risk assessment

25.06.2004
Forum on Monitoring

15.10.2004
Forum on Status and trends

2005
Drafting Group Status / Trends
Drafting Group Thresholds
Drafting Group Ind. discharges

Forum on research and standardisation

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