

2015 : Good status of water in European Union



2015: YEAR OF WATER?

TWO INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

- European Union : Good status of water in Europe
- United Nations: halve the population in the world without access to water and basic sanitation

EUROPEAN WATER POLICY

"Water is not a commercial product like any other but, rather, a heritage which must be protected, defended and treated as such." ^[1]

^[1] Recital 1 of the Water Framework Directive



MAIN FEATURES OF EU WATER POLICIES

Water policy goes back over 25 years → health and environmental issues

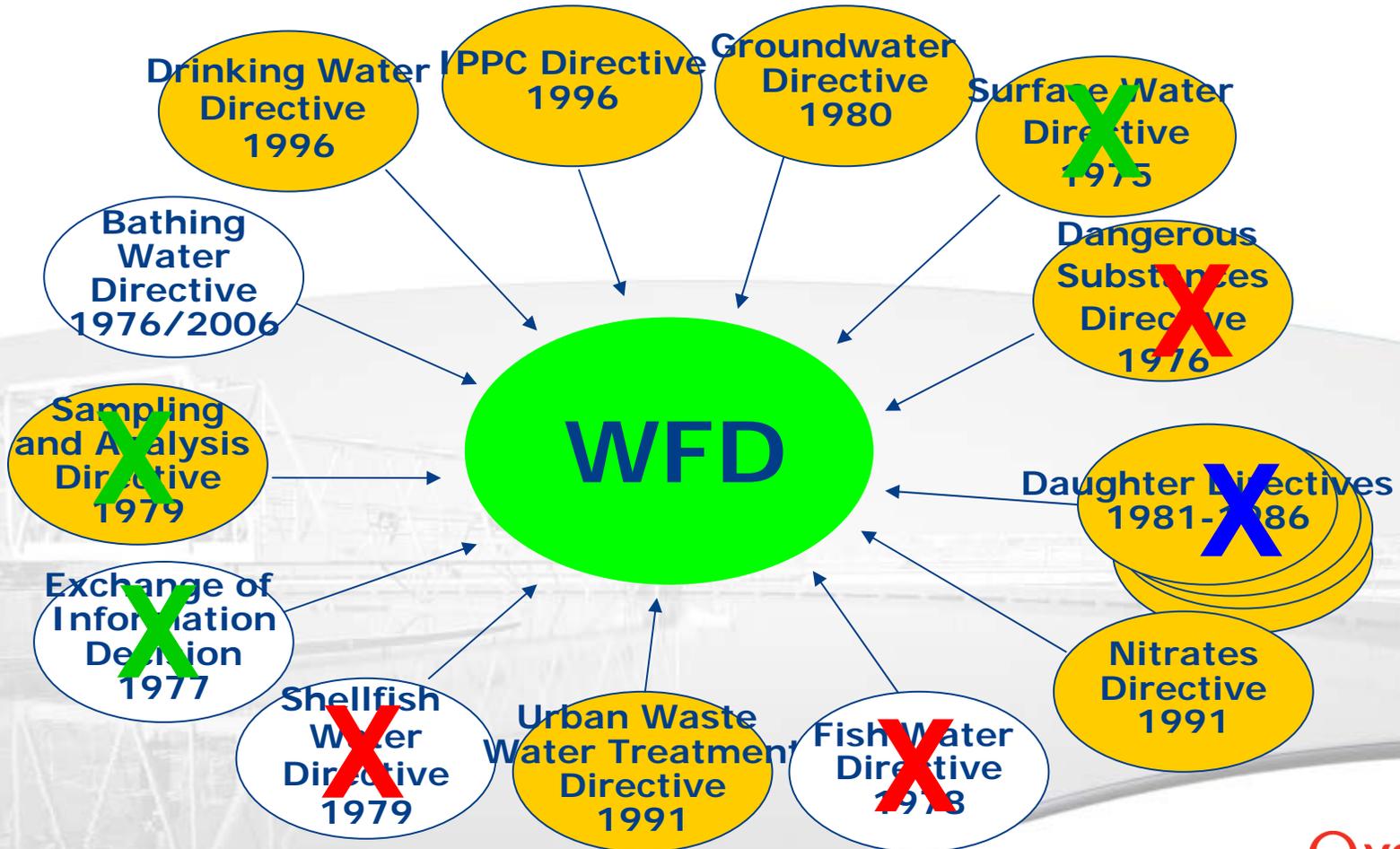
Focused on the protection of water bodies which are used by people. Directives are aimed to regulate the sources of pollution (urban, agricultural, bathing water)

- **Urban waste treatment directive**
- **Nitrate directives**
- **Drinking water services**
- **Bathing water service**
- **New initiatives in the pipeline (daughter directives under the water framework directive)**

THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

A turning point in water policy: to protect water and environment
by an integrated approach

Simplify and reinforce the legislation



X repealed in 2007; X repealed in 2013; X repealed on adoption of the daughter directive on priority substances

THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

► Objectives

The attainment of good water status by 2015 including ecological status (flora and fauna) et not only on establishing concentration limits for pollutants

► Scope and approach

River basin is the basic unit, even if it crosses national borders and coastal waters within 1 mile from the sea shore.

All the waters within the river basin have to achieve good status and the basin must be managed as an integrated unit; Providing for a decentralised management

THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

► Integrated planning

- **2006** : monitoring network and public consultation
- **2009**: for each river basin, a management plan must be produced
- **2010**: Introduction of the water pricing policy
- **2012**: the programmes of measures become operational
- **2015**: environmental objectives achieved

If several countries share a basin, the plan requires that those at the top of the basin should not export their problems downstream.

► Cost recovery

Develop pricing structures which reflect the real cost of water

Equitable balance between the prices charged to different water users

Not standardisation of the costs: recognising that they are social and other factors which will need to be taken into account, more closely linked to the situation in the field

Effective pricing structures and greater transparency

THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

► Public participation

Impose the obligation to involve the general public in the Development and implementation of river basin management plans

Consultation of the affected population

► Economic stakes

About 400 billion € over the next 15 years

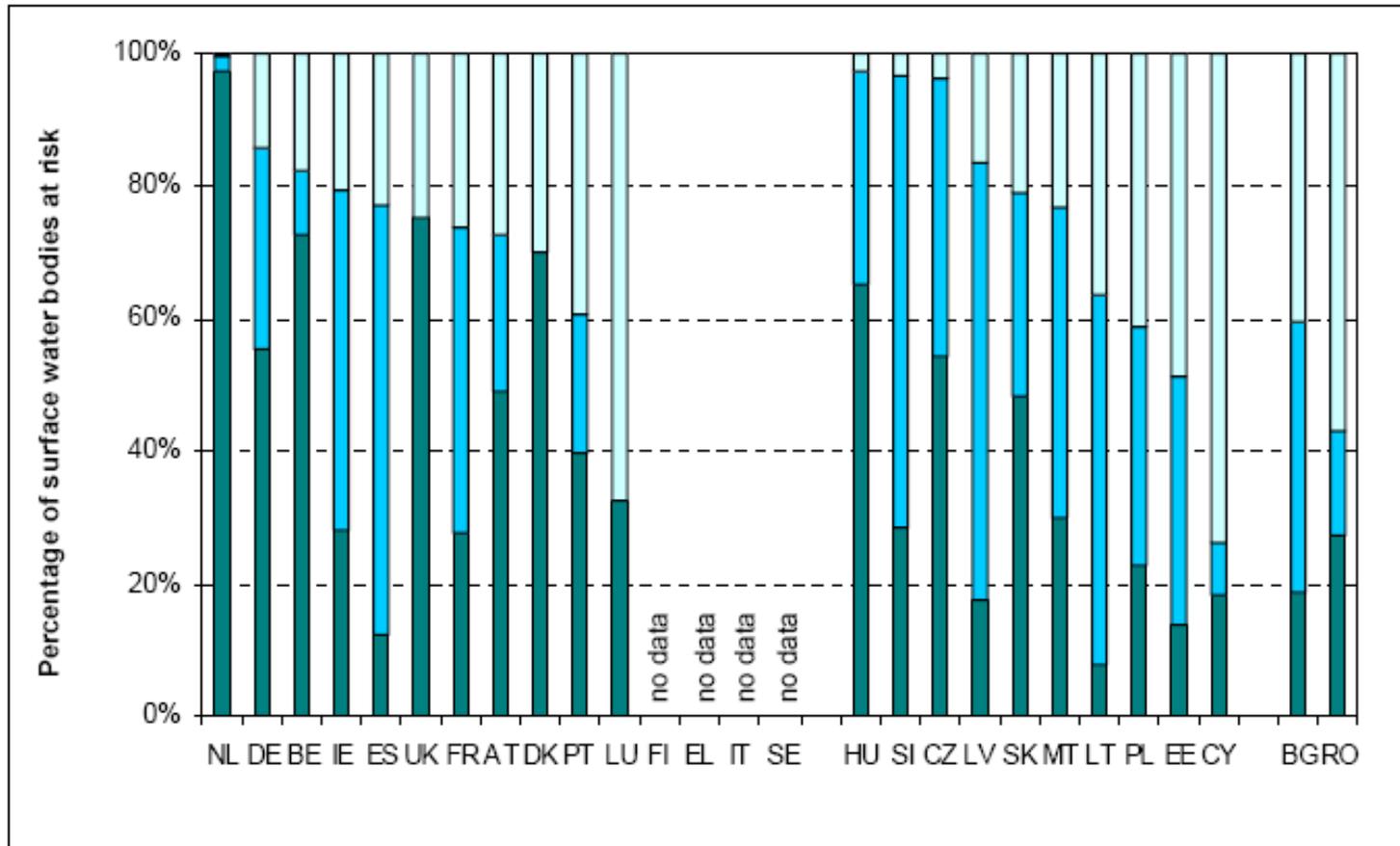
“Water must pay for water”: more efficiency and benchmarking required

WHERE ARE WE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WFD?

1. The situation of the European waters is worse than envisaged

CAUSES:

- Diffuse pollution
- Physical modification
- Overuse of resources
- EU12: one-off pollution



Percentage of surface water bodies at risk of failing WFD objectives per Member State - ■ = 'at risk', ■ = 'insufficient data', ■ = 'not at risk' (based on Member States' reports)

COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Remedy deficiencies observed**

- UWWT and nitrates directives
- Economic instruments
- Coherent, harmonized information

- **Integrate sustainable management of water into other policies**

- Appropriate evaluation of projects
- Use of European funds

- **Getting the most out of public participation**

BEYOND THE WFD

- **Floods Directive**
- **Marine Directive**
- **Communication on Water Scarcity & Drought**
- **Beyond the borders of the EU: the European Water Initiative**

WATER SCARCITY & DROUGHT

- **Significant impact: €85 bn in 30 years**
- **Affects all sectors and the environment**
- **General framework: WFD**
- **Promotion of a water conservation culture comparable to the energy conservation culture**
- **Consistency of development policies and financial instruments (CAP, regional policy)**

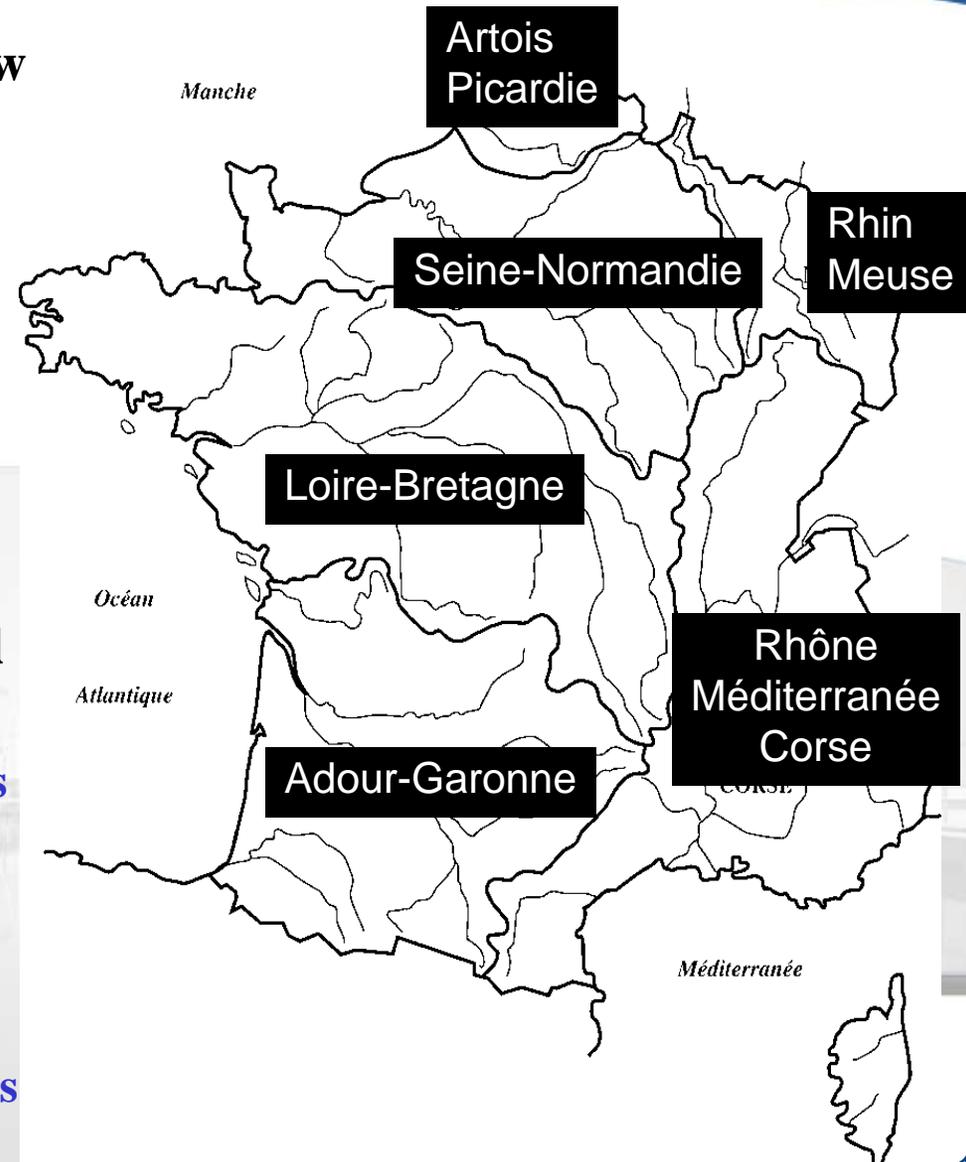
THE MAJOR CHALLENGES

- **Integrate water into sector policies**
- **Promote use of economic instruments for better management of water**
- **Understand climate change**
- **Dispose of a Water Information System for Europe and an effective knowledge management system**

⇒ ***A revitalized partnership with Member States***

The French Water Agencies (1)

- Set up in 1964 by a specific water law
- 6 major river catchments territories --> 6 Water Agencies
- Organization principles:
 - ➔ A catchments' based approach
 - ➔ Participation of stakeholders
 - ➔ Investment planning
 - ➔ Polluter-pays principle
- Implementation of a 5 year financial program aiming at:
 - ➔ Protecting the environmental assets and the water quality
 - ➔ Lowering pollution from municipalities, agriculture and industry
 - ➔ Protecting drinking water resources



The French Water Agencies (2)

- **A two level system of economic incentives:**
 - **Polluters should pay**
 - **Purifiers should be helped**
- **The Water Agency:**
 - **bills consumers on the basis of the level of generated pollution**
 - **reinjects this money making loans and giving grants to municipalities, industries and agricultural for water protection operations**
- **Financial equilibrium is achieved on the basis of 5 year financial program**

The French Water Agencies (3)

- **A participatory process including stakeholders and citizen**
- Water Agencies are *consensus makers*.
For instance, the River Basin Committee of Seine Normandie Water Agency include 118 members:
 - 45 local authorities representatives;
 - 45 stakeholders representatives;
 - 21 state representatives;
 - 7 professional representatives.
- **A legitimate system:**
 - the ones who pollute pay
 - the ones who pay contribute to decision
 - water pays for water
- **Control of Water Agencies budget by the national parliament**

Thank you for your attention