



## **Water scarcity and droughts – policy development and implementation 2007 - 2010**

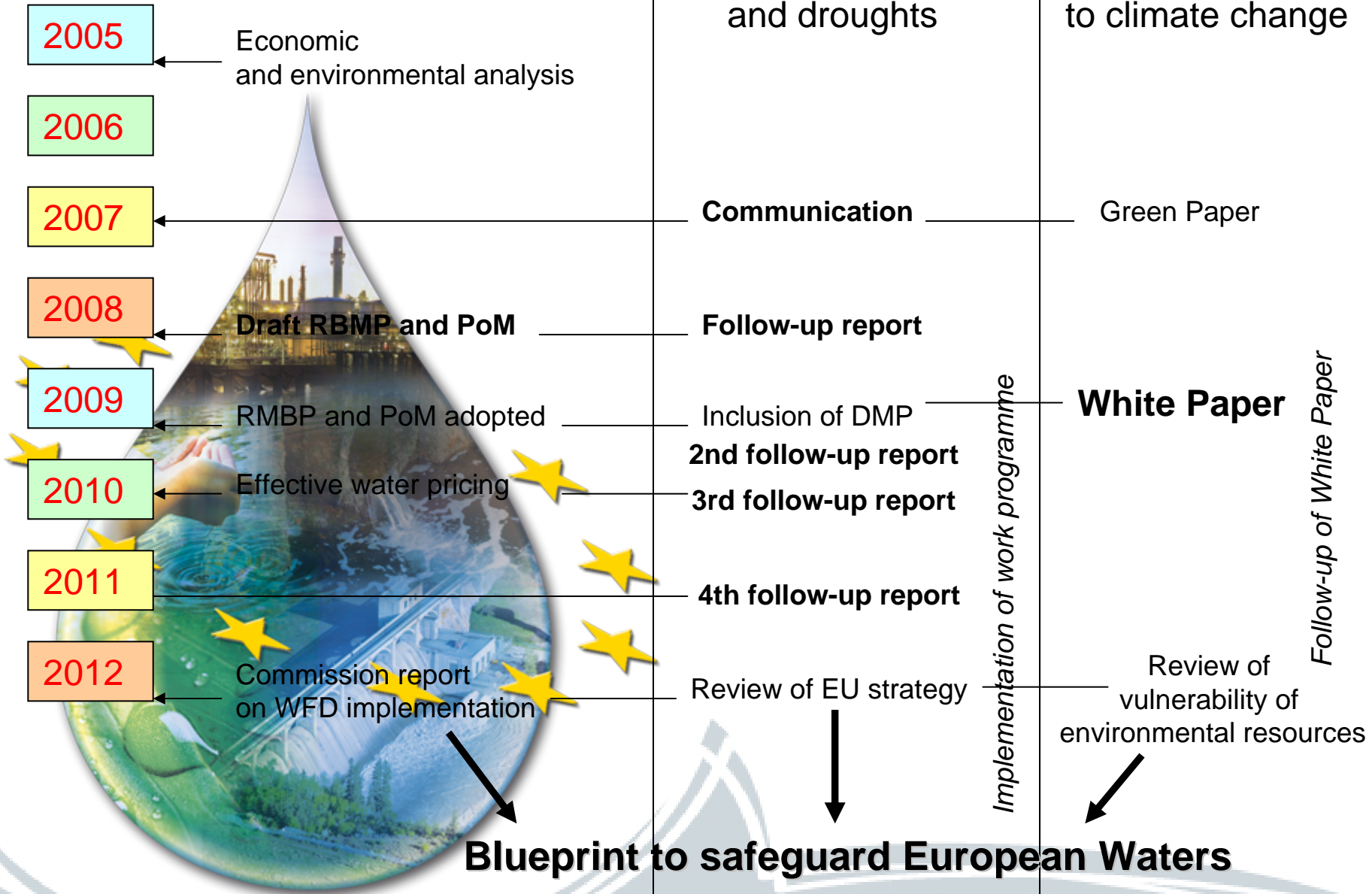
*Stakeholders Forum on Water Scarcity & Droughts Policy Review*  
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# Water Framework Directive

# Water scarcity and droughts

# Adaptation to climate change



# Follow-up reports of the Communication on water scarcity and droughts

**1st Report** adopted in December 2008

The report provides:

- **Feedback on progress** made in measures to be implemented at EU and national levels
- **A work programme** in order to further implement the measures of the Communication
- A commitment to present annual progress reports until the policy review in 2012

**2nd Report** is being adopted by written procedure

The report provides:

- **Feedback on progress** made in measures to be implemented
- The attached staff working document **presents the progress made in the implementation of the work programme and further details on the activities in the Member States**



# Putting the right price tag on water

## *Findings:*

- Pricing is only one possible tool, additional measures are needed to encourage the efficient use of water.
- As regards the principle of cost recovery, which is being introduced, it is too early to assess its impact on water demand.
- The use of meters for domestic drinking water supply is reaching a high level of implementation in Member States.
- The metering of non-domestic water uses is also improving.
- Metering is usually associated with the authorisation process itself.
- In some Southern European river basins legal measures have been adopted to also control the existing groundwater extractions.



# Allocating water and water-related funding more efficiently

- The report gives an overview on progress for land use planning for agriculture, urban areas and the tourism sector as well as the implementation of the SEA directive.
- The CAP Health Check has resulted in increased financial transfer to rural development policy, allowing Member States to reinforce efforts on inter-alia water scarcity issues.
- The cohesion policy starts to recognise water scarcity issues and its funds were used for the first time to co-finance and investment needed following a severe drought.
- There was little information the improved use of the EU and national funds.
- Only a few Member States reported having implemented tax policies taking into account water scarcity and drought issues.



# Improving drought risk management

## *Findings:*

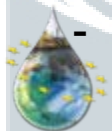
- Member States across the EU consider and tackle these issues depending on their recent history and suffering with regard to water stress
- A prototype of the European Drought Observatory (EDO) for drought forecasting, detection, and monitoring was developed and is being tested.
- Drought Management Plans should be developed as supplements to the RBM Plans.
- The delay of implementation of the WFD in some Member States with the most of the worst-affected river basins will retard the timely implementation of the objectives of the Communication.
- The Commission intends to foster exchanges of information and best practices on drought risk management



# Considering additional water supply infrastructures

## *Findings:*

- There is a potential for a greater use of alternative water sources for energy production (cooling) as these can be less impacted by droughts
- It is not yet possible to provide an EU wide set of best available mitigation options for alternative water supply options - the conclusion is based on a study carried out for the Commission in December 2008 assessing the risks and impacts of four alternative water supply options (desalination, wastewater re-use, ground water recharge, and rainwater harvesting).
- Alternative water supply options may be more expensive than conventional options, but subsidies to compensate for price differences should serve only for helping the users in the transition towards a more sustainable use of water.
- The role of alternative water supply options will grow in the future due to climate change and the reduction of water availability.
- Continuous improvement of knowledge in the field is needed.



# Introduction of a water-saving culture in Europe

## *Findings:*

The scope of the Eco-Design Directive (2005/32/EC) was extended to cover water using devices.

- the revised EU Eco-Label regulation will help consumers in choosing products with lower water consumption.
- The Greening of Public Procurement is a major opportunity to stimulate the market for water efficient products and technologies.
- The water use of the manufacturing industry can be reduced by recycling and reusing water, changing production processes, using more efficient technology, reducing leakage and developing on-site treatment.
- The water footprint is increasingly used to raise the awareness of consumers on water consumption. The Commission will consider whether it has a role to play in the future policy on water scarcity and droughts



# Improve knowledge and data collection

## *Findings:*

- Indicators are being produced under the CIS of the WFD
- there was a progress in establishing a European Water Scarcity and Drought Information system (WSDIS).
- Both national and international level research and development are being enhanced to identify the main gaps in research and the key steps forward in order to improve the current knowledge.
- The EN on WS&D is working on the development of EU wide indicators



# Conclusions

- The water hierarchy laid down in the **Communication** remain valid and should also be the **benchmark for EU funding (Cohesion Funds in particular)**
- The Yearly report, together with the planned studies and pilot projects, will inform the 2012 policy review and the **yearly reporting exercise is therefore of main importance**
- In 2009 only 14 Member States (CZ, IT, FI, AT, DE, PT, UK, BE, PL, FR, MT, CY, ES and LT) replied to the questionnaire. To have a clear picture of the progress made, and of the room for improvement at the EU level, replies are needed **from all Member States.**
- The **main areas which will be further studied at EU level between now and 2012** are water efficiency with regard to agriculture, water supply infrastructures, buildings and products, water savings and improved water retention through changes in land use and management, and measures related to early warning for droughts.
- The review of the water scarcity and droughts strategy will be one of the 3 building blocks of the Commission **Blueprint** for safeguarding Europe's water resources planned for 2012.

