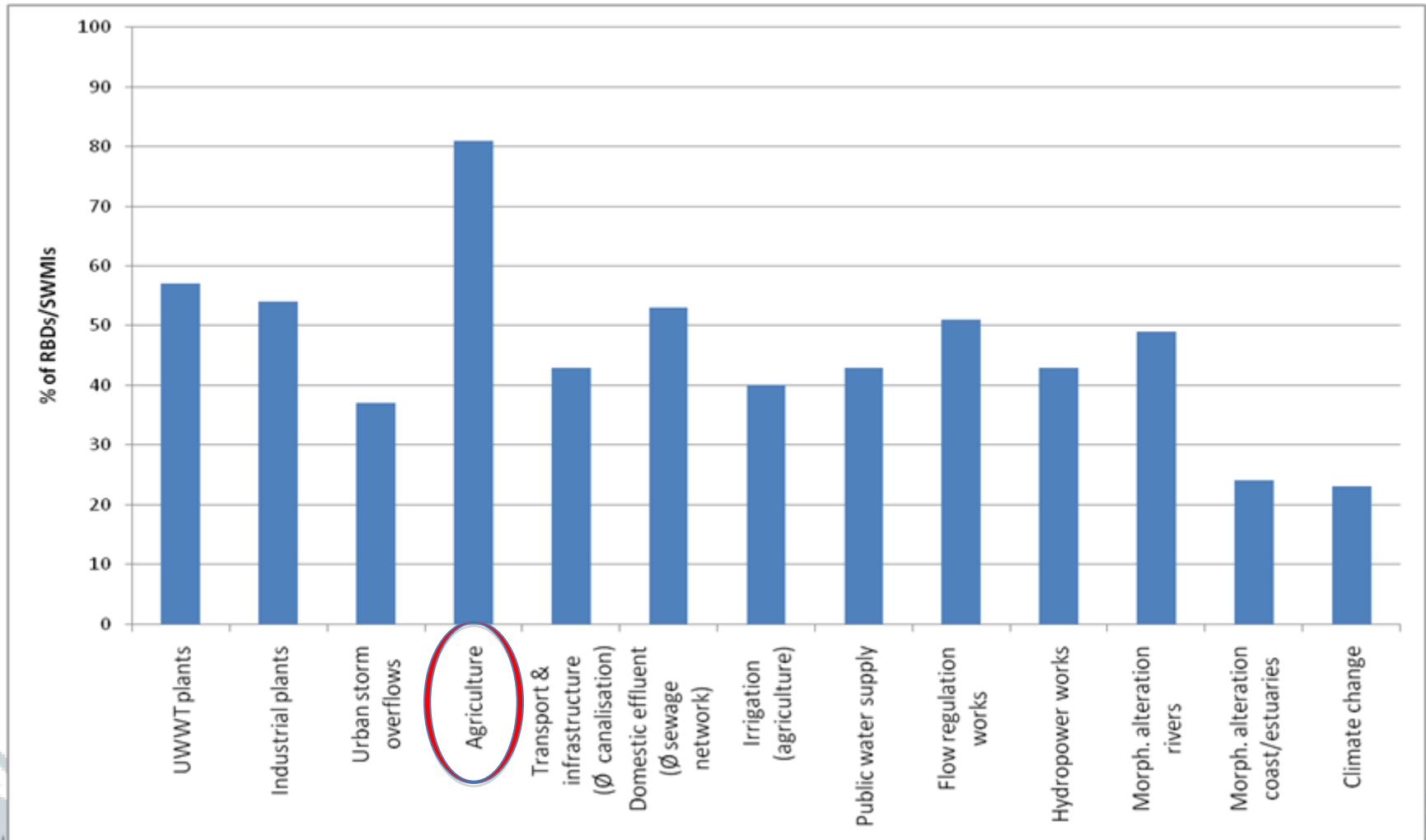


# Water scarcity & droughts: agriculture as a main issue

Stakeholder forum  
27 April 2010, Brussels

*Nicolas ROUYER, water unit, DG ENV D1,  
European Commission*

# WFD: agriculture identified as the major significant water management issue



Source: WFD Plunge into the debat conference (2009)

[water.europa.eu](http://water.europa.eu)



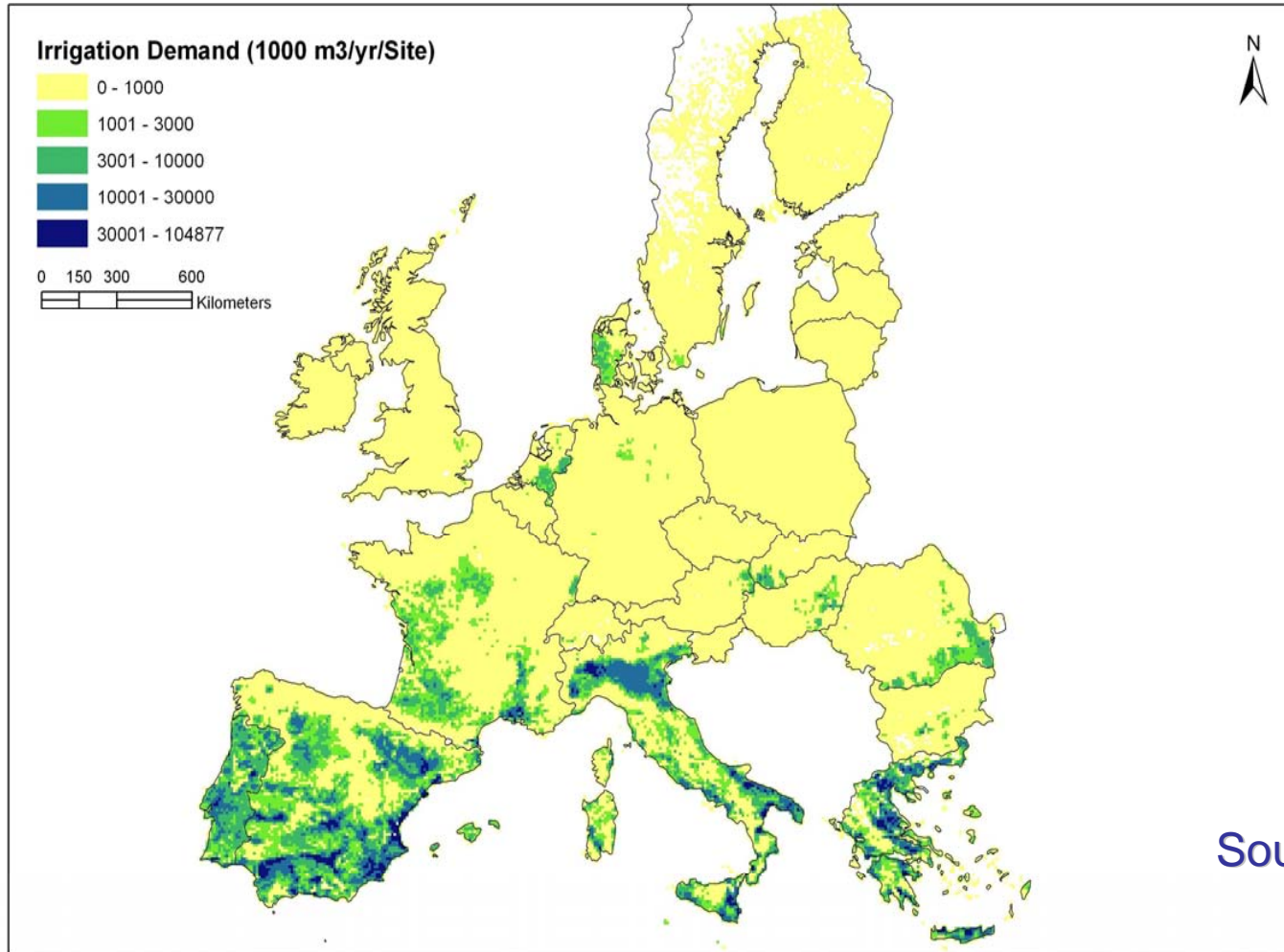
# Agriculture is the 2<sup>nd</sup> abstracting sector in Europe

1. Energy Production (cooling): 44% of total water abstraction across Europe
  - 2. Agriculture: 24%**
  3. Public Water Supply: 21%
  4. Industry: 11%
- (EEA, 2009 water resources in Europe – confronting water scarcity and droughts)*

➔ Agriculture is a major issue to address when tackling water scarcity & droughts



# Irrigation: up to 80% of total water abstraction in the South



Source: Wriedt  
et al. 2008



# Constraints when planning studies now

- **A changing context** (CAP reform timetable, OECD outputs...)
- **Studies have to be combined with other initiatives** to optimize the system (WFD compliance checking exercise, new PRB mandate...)



# About the data

→ Importance of the **gap analysis** to figure out the situation.

*‘Consumption’ is critical: how much water is returned to a waterbody after use? Energy production = 99%*

*Agriculture = c.30%?*

→ Illegal water abstraction plays a big role.

*Conference with a focus on illegal water abstraction in September in Belgium.*



# Post 2013 CAP & water protection

- Set up of a drafting group among the « WFD Expert Group on agriculture » to feed the discussion with DG AGRI
- The drafting group will consider the added-value of a specific study

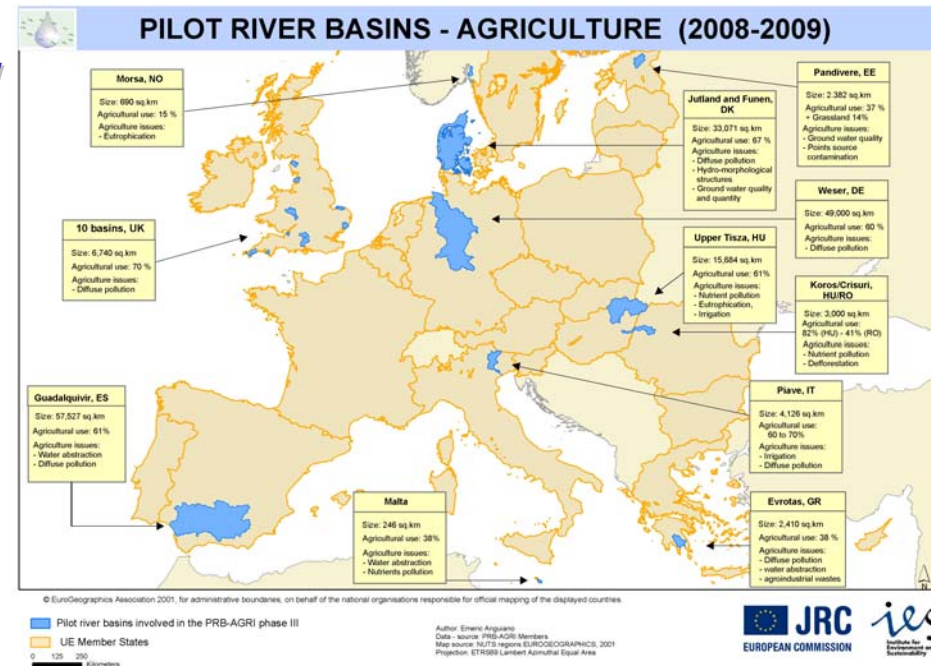


# Effectiveness of measures

→ Network of river basins to assess the effectiveness: new mandate currently under discussion

→ Idea of a data base on agri measures

→ Activity will be completed with adapted studies



# Water pricing in agriculture

- The European Commission would like to organize a conference on water pricing with the Polish Presidency in 2011
- We need to consider the recent studies by the OECD



# Water saving options

- The Commission will ensure that all the available studies which have been carried out regarding options for water savings in agriculture will be taken into account in the preparation of the 2012 Blue Print for European Waters
- Possible additional studies if needed.



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