

**COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FOR THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE
(2000/60/EC) AND THE FLOODS DIRECTIVE
(2007/60/EC)**



Work Programme 2013-2015

**'Strengthening the implementation of EU water policy
through the second river basin management plans'**

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THIS DOCUMENT AS WELL AS THE PREVIOUS WORK PROGRAMMES OF THE WFD
COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY ARE PUBLISHED UNDER
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/water-framework/objectives/implementation_en.htm

Introduction

The agreement to start a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the Water Framework Directive¹ (WFD) in 2001 was seen as a milestone in working together towards successful implementation of the core water law at EU level. Over the past years, the impressive outputs, the added value and the cooperative spirit of the exercise have been widely recognised. Furthermore, implementation of the Floods, Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) and Groundwater Directives is now closely tied in with that of the WFD, and coordination with the implementation of other water-related Directives (Urban Waste Water, Drinking Water,² Bathing Water, Nitrates, Marine Strategy Framework and Nature Directives) has improved.

The Water Blueprint published by the Commission in November 2012 together with the 3rd implementation report of the WFD have identified serious implementation gaps and delays as well as actions that need to be taken to speed up the achievement of the WFD 'good water status' objective. Building on the successful co-operation of the past decade and on the basis of the Blueprint proposals and the Council Conclusions adopted on 17 December 2012³, a CIS Work Programme (WP) for the period 2013-2015 is presented in this document.

This WP should address shortcomings commonly identified during the assessment of the first River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), facilitate the 2nd River Basin Management Planning process; support the achievement of WFD objectives in the 2nd and 3rd cycles in coordination with the Flood Risk Management Plans developed under the Floods Directive (FD); facilitate the implementation of the FD; further coordinate with the implementation aspects of other water directives which are relevant to the WFD, in particular reporting and measures. Progress on CIS activities will depend on the involvement and commitment of Member States, the Commission and stakeholders.

In defining the WP, the focus should be on priority activities that are directly relevant for implementation of the WFD, the FD and the other water-related directives mentioned above. In particular, this WP is designed to be complementary to the CIS Work Programme for the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the implementation activities of the other water-related directives.

The WP in this document covers the period 2013 to 2015 but, in defining the Programme, the participants should bear in mind a longer perspective that includes common tasks under the other water-related directives, and the desirability of developing, in that longer term, a CIS that comprehensively covers all relevant water policies.

1. Objectives of the CIS

The objectives of the CIS Work Programme for 2013-2015 are three. The CIS should contribute to:

1. improving the implementation of the WFD and coordination with implementation of other water-related directives and facilitating the implementation of the first cycle of the FD;
2. increasing the integration of water and other environmental and sectoral policy objectives, particularly nature, agriculture, transport, energy, disaster and risk prevention, research and regional development;
3. filling in the few remaining gaps in the EU legislative and policy framework on water.

Concerning implementation and integration, the Commission assessment of the first RBMPs has provided evidence of the need for improved understanding of the roles of and

¹ European Parliament and Council Directive 2000/60/EC of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy (OJ L 327, 22/12/2000, p. 1) as amended by European Parliament and Council Decision 2455/2001/EC (OJ L 331, 15/12/2001, p.1)

² The Directives on Urban Waste Water, Drinking and Bathing Water are also referred to sometimes as "Water Industry Directives".

³ Ref. 17872/12

connections between the different steps involved in preparing the RBMPs. Improved understanding would be supported by improving the knowledge base for the plans, e.g. in relation to the economic analysis, the choice of the measures and the monitoring of their effectiveness. The WFD objectives can only be fully achieved through joined-up implementation of other water-related directives and the supportive and coherent implementation of other relevant policies. A better coordination between the WFD and Birds and Habitats directives implementation should also be achieved and the fulfilment of nature legislation requirements should be viewed as an opportunity for achieving truly sustainable water management.

Moreover, implementation has to happen on the ground. The River Basin (RB) is the water management unit and the central entity for WFD implementation to overcome national and – in transboundary basins - international administrative boundaries. It is therefore necessary to enhance the link between the European scale CIS process and the work done at RB level. It is necessary that information flows in both directions thereby ensuring that documents prepared under the CIS become operational tools at RB level. Increased involvement of those implementing water policies in the river basins is necessary to ensure that CIS outputs are translated into outcomes on the ground. Therefore, the exchange of best practices and knowledge between authorities in RBs and/or MS with similar features and problems should play an important role in the next WP.

The contribution that the CIS can make to filling gaps in the legislative and policy framework on water will be focused on the few gaps identified in the Water Blueprint. The WP should include proper consideration of developments under all water-relevant legislation.

The conclusions in the Commission's assessment report on the Member States RBMPs should be considered when identifying CIS priorities in the short, medium and long term.

2. Overall structure and working methods

The assessment of progress achieved so far in WFD implementation has identified needs for improvement in several areas, many of which refer to topics addressed in existing CIS structures. This means that a number of existing working strands will need to be continued. In addition, a range of important emerging topics have arisen. This multiplicity of topics which need to be addressed contrasts with the limited resources available, and makes priority setting more important than ever. The main guiding principle in the elaboration of this WP should be the effective use of existing resources on the basis of a strong priority setting which guide the work of the coming years.

To this end, and on the basis of the experience in the current CIS, MS views and the Commission assessment of EU water policy implementation conducted under the Water Blueprint, the CIS should strive to do the following :

- Improve dialogue and coordination between experts covering closely related matters, e.g. water status which is currently covered by Ecostat, Chemical and Groundwater groups;
- Ensure that an artificial separation of water quality and quantity is avoided, e.g. Ecostat and Water Scarcity and drought (WS & D) groups;
- Add flexibility to the working methods and structures to ensure that important topics are not overlooked because they lack a natural home, e.g. ecological flow, water re-use, hydromorphological issues, Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRMs), economic issues, water accounts, water trading, peer reviews;
- Avoid the proliferation of working/expert groups with self-sustaining attitude; work should be based on the priorities set by Water Directors in the CIS WP;

- Ensure that deadlines for the CIS deliverables are respected, in order for them to be on time to be taken into account in the implementation work;
- Ensure that CIS deliverables are used at implementation/Basin level;
- Ensure that the Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) and Water Directors (WD) keep the 'big picture', have the opportunity to hold strategic discussions, and do not become simple rubber stamping bodies,
- Ensure that the SCG and the WDs' role remain different but complementary: the WD will continue to decide what needs to be done while the SCG will ensure the delivery of the work programme by steering and coordinating the activities of the working groups, as explained below.

The CIS organisational structure should provide continuity by preserving existing networks but also needs to evolve towards a more flexible and better integrated 3-tier arrangement that will better respond to the new challenges: **WD, SCG and a limited number of Working Groups (WGs)**. In principle **none of the Working Groups is permanent**: once the mandate of a Working Group (as defined in this work programme) has been completed, the group's activity will stop. There are, however, Working Groups that due to their key role (including e.g. support to policy development) and extensive work programme are expected to remain active during the whole period of the Work Programme (e.g. Ecostat, Chemicals, Floods, Programme of measures). In any event, during the period of the Work Programme Water Directors may decide to create additional Working Groups that deal with emerging activities.

In order to strengthen the dialogue and coordination across the Working Groups, these have been grouped into **three clusters**. The Working Groups within a cluster are expected to require closer interaction and cooperation. However, cooperation across clusters will also be needed as there are issues of horizontal nature (e.g. reporting) and tasks that have strong links with the remit of Working Groups within other clusters.

The 3 clusters group 9 Working Groups as follows:

1. Water Status Cluster: includes the Working Groups Ecostat, Groundwater, Chemicals (current WGs A, C & E) and Ecological Flow (building upon part of current EG on WS&D).
2. Water Management Cluster: includes the Working Groups Programme of Measures (builds upon part of current EG on WS&D with additional expertise), Agriculture (current EG on Agriculture), and Floods (current WG F).
3. Knowledge Integration & Dissemination Cluster: includes the Working Groups Economics (NEW) and Data and information sharing (current WG D Reporting).

Since the above Working Groups largely correspond to existing working or expert groups, it is expected that transitions to this new structure and continuity of on-going work can be smoothly ensured.

There will be at least 2 leads for each of the Working Groups. Whenever possible, one lead should be from the Commission, the other one from a Member-State. They will be identified by the Member States and the Commission as it is currently the case for WG/EG leads. The Commission stands ready to proactively contribute to the work of all identified Working Groups. In order to ensure continuity, it is envisaged that the current leads of WG/EG will become leads for the relevant Working Groups in the new system to the extent that they are ready to do so. They will be responsible for communicating the needs and views of the SCG to the experts in their group, gathering advice from them regarding the detail of what to cover and how best to proceed, organising meetings and coordinating report preparation as necessary, and providing feedback and channelling reports from the experts to the SCG. The

leads will have a key role in ensuring the delivery of the tasks entrusted to the Working Group they coordinate and will need to cooperate closely especially for tasks cutting across different WGs and clusters (e.g. for agenda setting, document distribution, information sharing, etc.).

The Working Groups will decide how best to organise their work in order to deliver on their mandate. Nevertheless, excessive proliferation of drafting groups should be avoided, using as much as possible exchanges by email and tele/video-conferences, in order to ensure that limited resources are used in an efficient way. In case drafting groups are created within a Working Group, the SCG will be informed.

The leads of the Working Groups and the SCG chair will have the responsibility to ensure **proper coordination** across the activities. This will be achieved through preparatory meetings (**Prep-SCG meetings**) held in Brussels before the SCG which prepares the Water Directors meetings (hence 2 meetings per year). These meetings will be chaired by the SCG chair with attendance of at least one lead of each Working Group and (a) representative(s) from the Presidency in charge of organising the Water Directors meeting (usually the SCG member). The meetings will focus on the preparation of strategic discussions at the SCG meeting, the exchange of information about the activities of the different Working Groups, the identification of potential synergies and overlaps and as appropriate the modalities of cooperation between the groups. Such modalities may entail light cooperation agreements for which the SCG will be simply informed (exchange of documents for comments, inclusion of information or discussion points in the agenda of different Working Groups, joint or back-to-back meeting of Working Groups) or more resource-intensive activities, for which the SCG approval will be requested (e.g. creation of drafting groups with experts from various Working Groups or one-off meetings or workshops to discuss specific items). In choosing the modalities of cooperation the Prep-SCG should consider the most efficient use of time and resources. In any event, it should be clear that the Prep-SCG is not a decision body but a coordination tool. In addition to the Prep-SCG, the Working Group leads are expected to liaise between them as necessary to ensure proper coordination of the activities of their respective groups.

The leads will need technical expertise, a good strategic overview of the WFD, and good communication skills. They will need to participate actively in SCG meetings and in the Prep-SCG meetings (at least 1 lead per Working Group in each meeting).

The additional burden that these arrangements put on the leads of the Working Groups (on average 1 meeting per year considering that there will be at least 2 leads per group) are expected to be significantly outweighed by improvements in coordination and ultimately in the quality of the CIS products.

The SCG should ensure that information flows as necessary from the EU level to national, regional and basin levels. This includes fostering the use and understanding of tools already available under the CIS (guidance documents, technical and policy documents, reports from research projects, etc.). It should also facilitate the exchange of experiences by mandating to the relevant Working Groups the organisation of ad-hoc workshops on specific topics. The information exchange will help MS to learn from each other, and the Commission to obtain an up-to-date picture of progress on water policy implementation in the EU. Such exchange should also focus on facilitating transboundary cooperation. To enhance the exchange of experiences, efforts should be made to provide interpretation whenever possible.

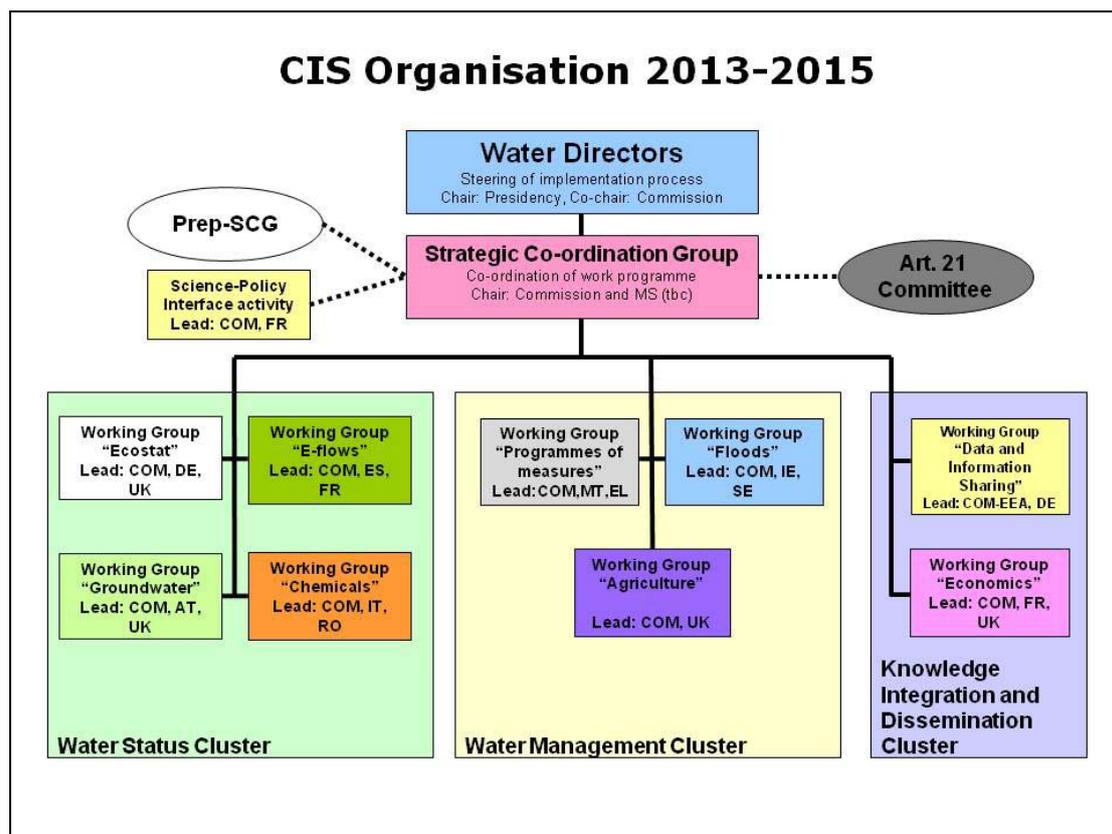
The **SCG** should also ensure that activities such as the European Semester and Science-Policy Interface are further developed and that a voluntary peer-review system is put in place by 2014. Peer reviews could be organised/facilitated by river basin network organisations and supported, where available, by EU funding. They could, *inter alia*, cover transboundary river basins.

The SCG will be co-led by the Commission and a Member State. The Member State co-leader will remain at least 18 months. The co-lead will be chosen in written procedure by consensus of Water Directors, on the basis of volunteer Member States.

Water Directors will continue to lead and decide on the work to be done, making sure that the CIS products will be of use/used in the MS.

It is worth noting that a structure similar to the one described above exists for the MSFD CIS, as do Committees/Expert Groups for specific water-related directives, namely Nitrates, Urban Wastewater, Bathing Water and Drinking Water which address the specific issues exclusively relevant for the implementation of those Directives (e.g. revision of Annexes). The SCG will be informed about these activities and will coordinate and explore synergies between them. In relation to reporting and measures, a closer integration of work under WFD and other water directives will be sought.

Figure 1 Organisational structure of CIS 2013-2015



The focus of the Working Groups in the three **clusters** will be as follows:

- **Water Status** - work supporting the **ecological, chemical and quantitative** status assessment; heavily modified water bodies (HMWBs); pressures and impacts analysis; monitoring and coordination of related assessment and monitoring under water-related directives (e.g. good environmental status descriptors 5 and 8).
- **Water Management** – work supporting the identification, planning and implementation of **measures** for surface and groundwaters, (covering agriculture, hydromorphology, energy, transport, flood protection, water efficiency, chemical pollution, urban waste water and industry, etc., as well as exemptions) while ensuring coordination with the programmes of measures developed under the MSFD and coherence with other policies. It is expected that the Programme of Measures Working Group will tackle in turn the various pressures and measures within its scope according to a prioritisation done by the WD and the SCG. The Floods Working Group will focus on the implementation of the first cycle of the Floods Directive.
- **Knowledge Integration and Dissemination** – work supporting reporting and data sharing, developing and disseminating knowledge and tools for specific areas such

as economic analysis, water accounts, hydro-economic modelling, etc. The nature of this work will be cross-cutting, with inputs to and from Working Groups in the other two clusters as well as the relevant activities of water-related directives under the umbrella of the Water Information System for Europe (WISE).

The deliverables from all WGs will be expected to include information and clarifications, targeted development of technical reports and guidance on methodologies, reporting formats, and workshop synthesis documents. There should not be a search for the 'perfect output' that would unduly delay documents finalisation. A consistent aim should be the exchange of experiences to develop common approaches based on best practices, particularly for the identification and implementation of measures.

A list of priorities (**in bold**) for each Working Group is provided in the next sections followed by an elaboration of what these priorities encompass in the form of draft mandates for the Working Groups. The mandates follow a **standard structure** identifying: **1. Deliverables** that mirror the list of priorities; **2. Providing a general description** of those deliverables as well as of **other task that**, while they need to be addressed, **are less urgent and will only be taken up if time and resources allow**; **3. A placeholder to identify the leads** of each WG; and **4. Interlinkages** between WG.

2.1 Water Status Cluster

The goal of the work in this cluster is to bring together all the relevant work on surface and groundwater status (chemical, ecological, quantitative aspects, including HWMB) to provide a full understanding of the health of EU waters linking biological, hydromorphological and physico-chemical, chemical and quantitative parameters including the related information under water-related directives (e.g. good environmental status in coastal waters). The work should address the identification of monitoring requirements and methodological approaches for those parameters to determine the status and the effectiveness of measures implemented and enhance integrated monitoring across water-related directives.

Relevant expertise for this cluster includes expertise particularly from the 2010-2012 Ecostat, Groundwater and Chemical Aspects CIS Working Groups, from the activity on Eflows and from expert groups under the MSFD. The coordination mechanisms among different WG should allow common issues such as emerging pollutants, analytical methods and effects-based monitoring to be discussed across the boundaries between surface, coastal, marine and groundwater; as well as ecological, chemical and environmental status.

The key priorities identified in this cluster are:

- **Guidance on Ecological Flows (Eflow) by 2014⁴**
- **Completion of intercalibration by 2016 (Heavily Modified Water Bodies(HMWB)/Ecological Potential, Coastal +Transitional waters, starting in 2013)**
- **Exchange of experience on Art. 5 analysis in 2013 (in cooperation with the WG Data and Information Sharing under the cluster Knowledge Integration and Dissemination)**
- **Follow up to the new Priority Substances Directive by 2014**
- **Review and possible revision of the annexes to the Groundwater Directive by 2014**

⁴ To be integrated with guidance on water accounts. There is an explicit mandate for this in paragraph 17 of the Council Conclusions on the Blueprint adopted on 17.12.2012 (doc.17872/12).

For the Working Groups under this cluster, draft mandates are as follows:

a) Working Group Ecological Flows

Deliverables:

- Guidance on Ecological Flows (Eflow) by 2014

Description:

A guidance on ecological parameters/ecological flows and hydrological parameters for assessing quantitative aspects (the volume and level or rate of flow) and the link to GES are defined, allowing for an assessment of pressures from all abstractions and climate change.

Leads: COM, ES and FR

Interlinkages with other WGs: Ecostat, Floods, Groundwater, Programme of Measures, Agriculture and Water Accounts work under KID cluster

b) Working Group Ecological Status (Ecostat)

Deliverables:

- Completion of intercalibration by 2016 (Heavily Modified Water Bodies(HMWB)/Ecological Potential⁵, Coastal +Transitional waters, starting in 2013)
- Exchange of experience on Art. 5 analysis in 2013 (in cooperation with the WG Data and Information Sharing of the cluster Knowledge Integration and Dissemination)

Description:

- Intercalibration of ecological potential - requiring information exchange on the assessment of hydromorphological impacts and the classification of HMWBs, and on approaches to biological assessment methods sensitive to non-hydromorphological pressures (e.g. pollution) and hydromorphological pressures/modifications including analysis of how they can be applied to HMWBs..
- Follow-up of the intercalibration exercise, mainly concerning coastal and transitional waters, but also lakes, large rivers and, to a lesser extent, rivers linking the exercise to the assessment methods for the marine environment (in particular for descriptors 5, 6, and 7).

Other tasks (possible formats and deliverables to be decided):

- Recommendations on biological monitoring methods, including on biological monitoring methods for which harmonisation is needed and where standardisation is possible, and on which standardised methods should be added to Annex V 1.3.6 of the WFD (development of new WFD relevant standards through the work of the CEN Technical Committee 230 Working Group "Biological and Ecological Methods).

⁵ In accordance with conclusions of Water Directors in December 2011 on concept paper on intercalibration of GEP

- Information exchange on the comparability of classification methods: Further information exchange on nutrient standards and EQS for river basin specific pollutants (RBSPs), and on physico-chemical standards; wider coordination among MS on the development of better harmonised standards for RBSPs; further information exchange on approaches for combining quality elements into water-body level classification and approaches for dealing with uncertainty in classification.
- Improving assessment coherence: Eutrophication assessment and nutrient standards including assessment and coherence with descriptor 5 for “good environmental status” and the assessment of eutrophic waters under the Urban Waste Water and Nitrates Directives; Hydromorphological parameters including assessment and coherence with descriptor 6 and 7 for “good environmental status”; Invasive alien species (IAS) including the assessment and coherence with descriptor 2 “non-indigenous species” for “good environmental status”.
- Coordination of biotic and abiotic monitoring.

Leads: COM, UK and DE

Interlinkages with other WGs: Ecological Flows, Chemical, Groundwater, Programme of Measures, Floods, MSFD CIS

c) Working Group Chemicals (Surface Water Chemical Status and Monitoring)

Deliverables:

- List of substances to include in the first Watch List, with technical specifications for monitoring them, by 2014
- Supplementary guidance on biota sampling and monitoring by 2014
- Analytical methods for priority substances by 2014

Description:

i. Tasks related to new legislation

Subject to adoption of new Priority Substances Directive:

- Preparation for Watch List monitoring, including work on identifying substances to include in the first Watch List and agreeing technical specifications for monitoring them
- Preparation of guidance on analytical methods for newly identified priority substances and for existing priority substances with new EQS
- Preparation of supplementary guidance on biota sampling and monitoring, taking into account MSFD needs;
- Preparation of guidance on how to select and apply appropriate biotic ligand models (BLMs)

Other tasks (possible formats and deliverables to be decided):

- Provision of support/input to the next review of the priority substances list, including by addressing objectives and requirements of the MSFD (“marine-specific pollutants”, “marine risk assessment”, seafood contamination, etc).
- Identification of emerging pollutants, especially those relevant to drinking water and to urban wastewater treatment.

ii. Tasks required to implement existing legislation

- Ensuring sharing of experience and needs regarding analytical methods for existing priority substances and RBSPs, and provision of support to develop such methods where possible, including via dissemination of outputs of CEN Mandate 424.
- Ensuring harmonised approaches to reporting chemical monitoring data and assessing status, (including for MSFD descriptors 8 and 9), in relation to grouping/estimation and unknown status (follow up the CMEP reports on application of the QA/QC Directive and the statistical methods for applying MACs).
- Supporting the implementation of descriptor 8 and 9 for good environmental status under the MSFD by sharing experience gained under the WFD.
- Reviewing progress and troubleshooting issues on the preparation of inventories of emissions, discharges and losses and expanding the concept to sources in marine waters (e.g. offshore) as well as to marine litter from land-based sources (in particular microplastics).
- Developing approaches to the quantification of pressures from chemical pollution, e.g. from diffuse emissions from agriculture
- Organising training on how to use certified reference materials (CRM)

iii. Tasks related to future developments

- Continued exploration of the potential to apply passive sampling and bioanalytical tools also for MSFD needs (with a view to developing guidance).
- Closer collaboration with ecological status colleagues on effect-based tools and the potential impacts of chemical mixtures.
- Contribution to the Information Platform on Chemical Monitoring (IPChem)
- Work on approaches to natural background concentrations
- Identification of best available techniques not entailing excessive costs
- Exploration of the relevance of marine litter from land-based sources, in particular microplastics.

iv. Tasks related to measures addressing chemical pollution

- Identification of substance-specific and general measures for implementation at MS level;
- Ensuring links/synergies with other regulatory activities, e.g. IPPC/IED - E-PRTR;
- Development and implementation of source-control measures under REACH, PPP Regulation etc, relevant to meeting EQS and to achieving phase-out of emissions (PHS);
- Development of a strategic approach to addressing the risks from pharmaceutical substances in the environment (subject to adoption of new Priority Substances Directive)
- Work on predicting the effects of measures;
- Ensuring coherence and consistency in risk management approaches under other legislation (e.g. drinking water requirements).

Leads: COM, IT and RO

Interlinkages with other WGs: Ecological Status, Groundwater, Programmes of Measures, Agriculture, MSFD CIS

d) Working Group Groundwater

Deliverables:

- Summary report on groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystems by 2013

- Recommendations for Groundwater dependent aquatic ecosystems by 2015
- Revision of the annexes to the Groundwater Directive by 2014
- Workshop conclusions on groundwater and drinking water risk assessment by 2014

Description:

- i. Continuous consultation on the review of GWD Annexes I and II.
- ii. Groundwater (GW) -dependent ecosystems – to continue discussion of GW-dependent terrestrial ecosystems and to start discussion of GW-dependent aquatic ecosystems – elaboration of recommendations
- iii. Drinking water – better integration in River Basin Planning and Management. Risk assessment in the catchment area (contributing to water safety plans), monitoring and data access/exchange in collaboration with Drinking Water Committee.

Other tasks (possible formats and deliverables to be decided):

- iv. Groundwater threshold values derivation – approaches and criteria under particular consideration of relevant receptors;
- v. Information exchange on MS trend assessment and reversal methodologies
- vi. Exchange of information related to groundwater use, groundwater availability and groundwater abstraction, e-flows (considering water scarcity and droughts), metering, water efficiency, water pricing etc.
- vii. Proposal on future reporting of delineation & assignment of GW-bodies to horizons

Leads: COM, AT and UK

Interlinkages with other WGs: Ecological Status, Chemical, Agriculture

2.2 Water Management Cluster⁶

The focus of the work in this cluster is on how to link the status and pressure assessments to clearly defined programmes of measures, and to improve the way this is done in the RBMPs through fostering a better understanding of the planning cycle, in particular the alignment of the status assessment and water management tasks. The Water Management cluster will also focus on the implementation of the first cycle of the FD.

Work will also cover the delivery of Programmes of Measures (PoMs), governance and planning tools for delivery, coherence with other policies (other water-related directives, rural development programmes, the Nature Directives, urban planning, green infrastructure, navigation, energy, protected areas, etc.). The work should promote consistency and synergies with the programmes of measures foreseen under the MSFD at the same time. The development of joint programmes of measures and joint WFD/MSFD reporting should be explored.

Measures have to target the sectors involved and the pressures they are addressing. Relevant expertise for this cluster includes expertise from all the 2010-2012 CIS Working Groups and Expert Groups/Activities.

The key priorities identified for this cluster are:

- **Facilitating the implementation of the first cycle of the FD until the adoption of the first FRMPs in 2015**

⁶ Regarding the role of Regional Conventions, in particular the River Conventions, see text under MSFD CIS work programme.

- **Sharing Best Practices on Programmes of Measures in 2013/2014**
- **Shared analysis of the outcome of the CAP negotiations and needed follow up in 2013**
- **Information exchange on funding for water-related measures outside CAP in 2013**
- **Guidance or other tool on Natural Water Retention Measures by 2014**
- **Spreading best practices on sustainable leakage and metering in 2013/2014**
- **Commission proposal on Water re-use by 2015 (earlier if additional resources become available)**
- **Spreading best practices on addressing hydromorphological pressures (strategic approach for hydropower, integrated planning for navigation etc.) by 2014**

Adoption of co-ordinated RBMPs and FRMPs including relevant MSFD measures by 2015. RBMPs should fully address Commission recommendations on 1st cycle plans and in the Blueprint, including on the need for better coordination of plans related to transboundary river basins.

For the WGs under this cluster, draft mandates are as follows:

a) Working Group on Programme of Measures

Deliverables:

CIS Guidance or other tool on NWRM

Best practices on leakage reduction for water supply and sewage network

Information exchange on funding for water-related measures outside CAP in 2013

Description:

Due to its broad and encompassing character the overall task of this WG will be to share best practices on coordinated programmes of measures which are suited to address the pressures identified as well as to coordinate work on specific measures:

1) Hydromorphology and Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)

- i. Green infrastructure best-practice exchange, focusing on NWRM including flood protection measures and possible synergies between FD, WFD and MSFD measures
- ii. Development of CIS Guidance or other tool on NWRM.
- iii. Best practices on addressing hydromorphological pressures as a result of a workshop + a follow up in the form of best practices collection

2) Measures addressing sustainable use of water resources/water efficiency

- i. Cooperating with the Commission on the development of an EU instrument on water re-use

- ii. Spreading best practices on leakage reduction for water supply and sewage network

Other tasks:

- iii. Follow the Commission's work on developing appropriate tools to increase the water/energy efficiency of water related products developed under the Ecodesign Directive.

3) Land-based measures concerning marine protection

- i. Facilitate the exchange of information and promote good practice in land-based measures which also fulfil the objectives set for the marine environment (MSFD, Regional Sea Conventions, etc.) which are either complementary to WFD measures (e.g. on nutrients, hazardous substances) or additional (e.g. on marine litter coming from land-based sources).

4) Funding under regional policy and EIB loans

- i. Discussing appropriate ways for ensuring that water priorities are included in Partnership Agreements between the Commission and the MS to provide support to water-related measures (e.g. for NWRMs, UWWT, drinking water, flood protection, water re-use and the reduction of leakages, etc.)
- ii. Cooperating with the EIB to ensure loans for the above mentioned water-related measures are available.

5) Climate change considerations

- i. Include climate change considerations in the appraisal of measures (climate checking of PoMs) (linked to floods, NWRM, water efficiency, etc.) and develop and promote ecosystem based approaches
- ii. Adaptation of drinking water / sewage network to climate change.

Leads: COM, MT (for task 2) and EL (for tasks 1 and 2)

Interlinkages with other WGs: All

b) Working Group on Agriculture

Deliverables:

Tools for improved pressure analysis

Tools for delivery of NWRM and other WFD measures, in particular within the upcoming Rural Development Programmes

Using GMES/COPERNICUS to address water abstraction including illegal abstraction (in water-scarce basins where this is an issue)

Description:

- i. Analysis of the updated Article 5 assessments to identify the gap that still needs to be closed to reach good status

- ii. Clarification of the scale of agricultural pressures on all water bodies and which basic and supplementary measures should be included in the second cycle to address agriculture's impact on water (pollution control, abstraction controls, hydromorphological measures) in addition to what is required by other water-related legislation (e.g. Nitrates Directive). Discussion of the impacts of the derogations under the Nitrates Directive on WFD good status objective.
- iii. Development and sharing of tools for delivery of NWRM and other WFD measures, including payments for ecosystem services, within the upcoming Rural Development Programme considering the baseline provided by other water-related legislation (e.g. the Nitrates Directive as regards nutrient pollution control) and under CAP Pillar I. Analysis of means other than Rural Development Programmes for the same purpose.

Other tasks (possible formats and deliverables to be decided):

- iv. Strengthening cooperation with MS authorities responsible for other water-related legislation (e.g. Ministries for Agriculture responsible for the implementation of the Nitrates Directive)
- v. Identification of ways to use GMES/COPERNICUS to address water abstraction including illegal abstraction (in water-scarce basins where this is an issue)

Leads: COM and UK

Interlinkages with other WGs: Programme of measures, Groundwater

c) Working Group on Floods

Deliverables:

Support to MS, based on information exchange, in the implementation of the Floods Directive through the first cycle, including the production of flood maps (2013) and FRMPs (2015), transboundary cooperation and coordination with the WFD RBMPs and with MSFD.

Agreed reporting schema (end 2013) and tools (2013 – 2015) for the implementation of the requirements for flood mapping and the FRMPs under the Directive.

Resource document on the links between the WFD and FD (draft end 2013 for review by SCG and consultation with other CIS Groups)

Links with, and input to, other flood-related activities, including the CIS SPI, research, climate change, civil protection and disaster risk reduction and resilience activities.

Description:

- i) Meetings to deliver the above will be held at regular intervals. Workshops may be held, if and as required, on individual themes provided in the detailed Floods WG Mandate for 2013-2015.
- ii) Finalisation of reporting Schema in 2013, and of reporting tools in 2013-2015, will be in line with reporting through WISE and with existing provisions under INSPIRE and future provisions under SEIS.
- iii) Development of a resource document on the links between the WFD and FD to support the achievement of synergies and promote coordination and integration as appropriate. A draft will be prepared for end 2013 for review by SCG and consultation with other WFD Groups, with a view to completion in 2014.

Input into other CIS and EU-Level activities, including:

- Research and the CIS SPI
- Developments in natural water retention measures (NWRM)
- Development of guidance on economics and flood protection and prevention (lead by DG ECHO Civil Protection)

iv) Development of reports, handbooks, guides or other documents on an ad-hoc basis, subject to specific mandates approved by the WG, SCG, and Water Directors.

Leads: COM, IE and SE

Interlinkages with other WGs: Ecological Status, Programme of Measures, Agriculture, Data and Information Sharing.

2.3 Knowledge Integration and Dissemination Cluster

The work in this area will involve expertise from pre-existing WG D (Reporting) and former ad-hoc activity on economics, but also the expertise from the Status and Management clusters, which should also be seen as customers for the outputs of this cluster.

The key priorities identified in these areas are:

- **Revision of Guidance on reporting for the 2nd RBMPs (by end of 2013)**
- **Exchange of experience on economic analysis under Art. 5 and on exemptions in 2013**
- **Guidance on cost-recovery/cost-benefits by 2014⁷**
- **Guidance on Water Accounts by 2014⁸**
- **Concept paper on the long term vision for reporting, integrating freshwater policies (2014)**

For the WGs under this cluster, draft mandates are as follows:

a) Working Group Economics

Deliverables:

- Exchange of experience on Art.5 analysis: workshop in 2nd semester 2013 + follow-up
- Review WATECO Guidance to clarify aspects linked to cost-recovery and cost/benefits analysis by 2014
- Exchange of experience on WFD exemptions: workshop in 2014 + follow-up

Description:

⁷ There is an explicit mandate for the development of a common methodology on cost recovery in paragraph 19 of the Council Conclusions on the Blueprint adopted on 17.12.2012 (doc.17872/12).

⁸ To be integrated with guidance on e-flows. There is an explicit mandate for the development of a common methodology for water efficiency targets in paragraph 19 of the Council Conclusions on the Blueprint adopted on 17.12.2012 (doc.17872/12).

By 2013 Member States have to review and, if necessary, update their RBD characterisation, as required by Article 5 of the WFD. In the context of the CIS, in-depth discussions on the methodology to implement the requirements of Article 5 should be organised to try and ensure that the 2nd RBMPs are based on a thorough economic analysis of pressures, and proper quantification of the costs and impacts of measures needed to comply with WFD objectives.

The work in the context of the CIS should also be to establish clear and transparent methodologies and improve the common knowledge base (e.g. detailed cost/effectiveness and impact assessment of measures available in WISE, based on case studies and integrated EU-wide assessments), and agree on practical **CIS guidance complementing/updating WATECO** on:

- i. assessment of costs and benefits of measures
- ii. cost-recovery calculation, including environmental and resource costs
- iii. integration of the concept of ecosystem services and further implementation of Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) schemes
- iv. links with EU funding and financing instruments

The work under this WG is expected to contribute strongly to the work of the WG on Water Management and should also contribute to the strengthening of knowledge to be used in the context of the European Semester (link between macro-economic and water policies). Where relevant, joint discussions/meetings could be held with the MSFD group on economics.

Implementing WFD Articles 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 4.7: Further work towards common interpretation of the provisions, especially the borderline between different exemptions and the notions of technical unfeasibility, disproportionate costs, mitigation of adverse impacts and definition and selection of better environmental options

Leads: COM, UK and FR

Interlinkages with other WGs: all + MSFD group on Economics

b) Working Group Data and Information Sharing

Deliverables:

Revision of Guidance #21 on reporting for the 2nd RBMPs and reporting sheets and schemas, including reporting sheet for the inventory of emissions, discharges, losses under the EQS directive (November 2013)

Concept paper on the long term vision for reporting, integrating freshwater policies and Wise Implementation plan 2015-2020 (end 2014)

Description:

In the context of the CIS the work should focus on:

- i. A short term perspective for a revised reporting strategy for the 2nd RBMPs which will entail the revision of the guidance on reporting and the adaptation of task sheets. The purpose of this revision is to adapt the reporting tools by December 2013, on the basis of the lessons learned from the reporting of the first RBMPs and covering INSPIRE requirements.
- ii. A long term perspective to evolve from reporting towards information sharing between Member States and the Commission by 2015, to be implemented in the 3rd cycle RBMPs. This implies upgrading WISE into an interoperable information system, taking account of the Commission's plans for an Information Platform for Chemical

- Monitoring (IPChEM) and learning from the pilot exercise on the Structured Information and Implementation Framework (SIIF) for the urban wastewater directive.
- iii. Streamlining reporting under the WFD, Floods, Nitrates, Water Industry Directives and the MSFD while making available key information for water policy at EU level as necessary. The EEA together with the MS, should work on defining the formats and procedures.
 - iv. Linking the information reported under the different EU water directives with the development and the implementation of the PoMs including the possible development of a joint reporting for MSFD and WFD programme of measures by 2015.
 - v. Strengthening knowledge-sharing across EU water policies, reinforcing knowledge and best-practice dissemination at EU, national and RB level.

Leads: COM-EEA and DE

Interlinkages with other WGs: all

c) Both Working Groups

Deliverables:

CIS guidance on Water accounts (together with Working Group Ecological Flows) by end 2014.

Description:

The prototypes of EU water balances and hydro-economic modelling built by the Commission and the EEA in the context of the Blueprint are expected to support the CIS process in relation to economic analysis and the assessment of the POMs from an EU-wide perspective. This requires filling data gaps, adding functionalities and ensuring consistency with existing results and tools at national/river basin levels.

This should lead to the development of a multi-scale assessment framework in the spirit of SEIS. The European Commission and the EEA will therefore engage in the further development of water balances and hydro-economic modelling at EU level, as they are essential for building assessment capacity at that level, in the context of the Resource Efficiency Roadmap.

These activities should be integrated into the CIS and synergies should be found with similar initiatives at national or regional level to avoid the risk of duplication and ineffectiveness. Current data gaps and inconsistencies should be addressed to ensure usefulness.

Action at EU level is triggered not only by the need to foster consistency of water allocation in transboundary basins and a level playing field in the implementation of the WFD, but also by the economies of scale and quality improvements that can be achieved by common methodologies and datasets. Moreover, EU action can greatly benefit those Member States who are less advanced in this field.

Work in this cluster includes also the further development of indicators for water efficiency and resilience to extreme events, building on the preliminary work undertaken by the 2010-2012 Expert Group on Water Scarcity and Droughts.

In the context of the CIS, active participation of MS, stakeholders and RB authorities in the building of EU tools will be encouraged to define the scope for the **CIS guidance on Water accounts (together with ecological flows) by 2014.**

Leads: COM and ES

Interlinkages with other WGs: Ecological Flows