

“Water and Agriculture – Investment Needs”

Romanian Presidency – European Commission, Task Force on Water and
Agriculture

5 - 6 of February 2019, Bucharest, Romania

Venue: House of Parliament

Draft AGENDA

This workshop is the second of three EU-level regional workshops being organised over the period of 2018-2019 by the European Commission’s Task Force on Water and Agriculture (TFW). Through this initiative, Commissioners Vella and Hogan and the respective services, DG Environment and DG Agriculture, are committed to work together to support sustainable water management in agriculture.

The Commission wants to raise awareness of the importance of a cross-sectoral approach to managing water and agriculture. The joint TFW aims at catalyzing new ways of integrating research and innovation with analysis of investment needs and experiences on good governance to enhance water management in the agricultural sector.

Hosted by the Romanian EU Presidency, this workshop brings together experts from Member States, organizations and others from across the EU. It seeks to explore good examples and best practices on investment measures, using innovative financial resources and ensuring funds to create positive synergies for water and agriculture in the post-2020 implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), Nitrates Directive (ND) and Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

The workshop will focus on the:

- 1) Investment needs in the agricultural sector and synergies between environmental planning tools (River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of measures established under the Water Framework Directive and future CAP Strategic Plans);
- 2) Designing relevant financing mechanisms under the CAP, including innovative solutions for pillars 1 and 2 under the proposed new CAP.

In this respect, Member States’ representatives, organisations or stakeholders with expertise in water and agriculture policy, governance, research and implementation are invited to contribute by making one of the short presentations that are allocated to speakers in the agenda. If you are interested in making a presentation, please contact Ms. Francesca Finello at fcfi@ramboll.dk or by phone +45 (51) 611566. Suitable proposals will be accommodated within the constraints of the time available.

All workshop participants will be invited to give their views on possible solutions and obstacles and to share their experience and lessons learnt on financing interventions in the agricultural sector to comply with the WFD. These exchanges should be particularly useful for Member States in the preparation of the “green architecture” of their Strategic Plans of the new CAP post 2020.

A workshop on diffuse agricultural pollution was held in Denmark on 27 November 2018 and a subsequent workshop in 2019 will focus on water abstraction/scarcity issues.

If you wish to attend the workshop in Bucharest, please confirm this by replying to fcfi@ramboll.dk by Monday, 7 January 2019.

Further logistical details will be sent by 15 January 2018 to all participants.

TUESDAY 5 FEBRUARY

09.30-10.30 Registration and Welcome coffee

10.30-11:00 Opening – Investments in water and agriculture as a political priority

- Romanian Minister of Agriculture and/or Romanian Minister of Water and Forests
- European Commission - high level representatives DG Environment and DG Agriculture
- High level speaker (European Investment Bank or World Bank representative - tbc)

11.00-12.00 Presentation of the outcomes of the previous activities related to Water and Agriculture

- Presentation of the outcomes of workshop on water and agriculture held in Brussels
- Presentation of the outcome of the workshop on diffuse pollution held in Denmark
- Presentation of the outcome on the workshop on water and agriculture organized by the World Bank in May 2018

Lunch (12:00-14:00)

AFTERNOON (14:00 – 17:00)

14:00-17:00 - Session 1 – Setting the scene: State of play of water and agriculture in the EU, governance and investment needs

Chair introduction - 10 min

Presentations:

- Water Framework Directive – status of implementation and main issues in relation to agriculture (*B. Doeser, DG Environment*) – 15 min
- Common Agricultural Policy – current and proposed architecture (*M. Poinelli, DG Agriculture*) – 15 min
- Good governance in water and agriculture (*OECD, tbc*) – 15 min

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

- Evolution of approaches in financing measures to reduce agricultural pressures reaching goals in the WFD in Member States, showcasing interplay with the CAP (*Ministry of Water and Forests, Romania*) – 20 min
- Evolution of approaches in financing measures to reduce agricultural pressures reaching goals in the WFD in Member States, focus on nature-based solutions (*Member State or other, tbc*) – 20 min

Moderated interactive panel session – 40 min

Closing by Chair: 10 min

EVENING (17:30 – 19:30?)

17:30-19:30 - Reception/ Cocktail by Romanian hosts

WEDNESDAY 6 FEBRUARY

MORNING (9:00 – 13:00)

9:00-10:45 - Session 2 – What works: types of successful projects and investments creating positive synergies for water and agriculture

Chair introduction – 5 min

Panel Presentations (4 x 15 min):

- Good practice in cost recovery (*Member State, tbc*)
- Example from national or regional commercial bank (*tbc*)
- EAFRD/RD/MS financing (*tbc*)
- Rural Development Project (*Ministry of Agriculture, Romania*)

Expert-moderated interactive session - 30 min

Closing by chair: 10 min

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-13:00 - Session 3 - The regional dimension – investments for water and agriculture in the Danube Basin

Chair introduction - 5 min

Panel presentations (4 x 15 min):

- Life project (*Member State or other, tbc*)
- Interregional aspects – Danube River (*ICPDR, tbc*)
- World Bank Project (Romania, nutrient storage) (*tbc*)
- Case study on Arges Vedea, Romania – Blue2 Study (*tbc*)

Expert-moderated interactive session - 30 min

Closing by chair - 10 min

13:00-14:00 Lunch

AFTERNOON (14:00- 16:30)

14:00-15:45 - Session 4 - Designing better structures and future-proofing investments

Chair introduction - 5 min

Panel presentations (4 x 15 min):

- Common Agricultural Policy - current and proposed financing mechanisms (*Valentin Opfermann, DG AGRI*) – 20 min
- Case studies on promising water innovations likely to impact the agricultural sector in the next 10 years:
 - A. Water reuse (*tbc*)
 - B. Nature-based solutions (*JRC/pilot project or other, tbc*)
 - C. ICT and remote sensing (*tbc*)

Expert-moderated interactive session - 30 min

Closing by chair - 10 min

15:45-16:30 - Session 5 - Takeaway lessons

Based on the conclusions from the individual sessions, takeaway lessons will be outlined to better understand the impact that various governance and financing choices can have on reaching agriculture and water objectives.

- Chair introduction (*WB Moderator, S. Scheierling*) - 5 min
- Moderated discussion (*B. Doeser, M. Poinelli, Romanian Representative et.al.*) - 30 min

- Conclusions - 10 min
- Closing remarks (*G. Constantin, Water Director, Romania*)