Water scarcity & droughts: agriculture as a main issue

Stakeholder forum
27 April 2010, Brussels

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

water.europa.eu
WFD: agriculture identified as the major significant water management issue

Source: WFD Plunge into the debate conference (2009)  water.europa.eu
Agriculture is the 2nd 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...)

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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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