

Countdown for Europe's waters !

2009 is an important year for European water policy. By the end of the year the first River Basin Management Plans must be established, laying down specific measures to ensure that all EU waters reach good quality status by 2015.



Stavros Dimas,
European
Commissioner
for the
Environment.

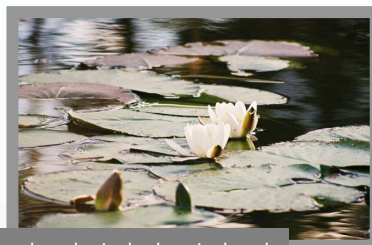
The successful development and implementation of River Basin Management Plans is key to European water policy and offers the opportunity to take key decisions on our water management for the future. How should agriculture contribute to good water management? How can we modify watercourses in a sustainable way? How can we send the right price signals to facilitate sustainable water use? How can we manage European watercourses in the view of the impacts of climate change?

None of these questions are easy and therefore the Water Framework Directive gives interested parties and the public the right to be involved and consulted in order to ensure the best decisions are taken.

The European Commission would like to take the opportunity to invite decision makers and interested parties from across the EU to the 2nd European Water conference to discuss strategic water management issues and how you can become involved.

Public information and consultation

Article 14 of the Water Framework Directive requires Member States to actively involve interested parties in the consultations on draft River Basin Management Plans and to make these drafts available for comments in writing from the public during a 6 month period – starting at the latest 22.12.2008. More information on how and when to get involved is available on <http://water.europa.eu/participate/>



Good ecological, chemical and quantitative status all over Europe in 2015?

Distance participation

Follow the conference online! Questions from online participants will be taken during the Q&A sessions. For more information log on to:

<http://water.europa.eu/participate/>

More about water in YOUR River Basin District on WISE:

<http://water.europa.eu>

ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT – PLUNGE INTO THE DEBATE!

2nd European Water Conference
2-3 April 2009, Brussels, Belgium.



DAY 1 : 2 April 2009

I: Opening session 10h00-11h00:

- Welcome and opening session with Commissioner Dimas – "Promoting active and transparent involvement in EU water policy"
- Keynote speech - European Parliament (tbc)
- Keynote speech - Czech Republic - EU Presidency (tbc)

II: Public participation in the development of River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) – state of play 11h00-13h00

- Introduction to the implementation of the WFD and the importance of public participation including the results of the survey on consultation in Member States
- Panel debate on good and bad practices in consultation - Chaired by the Director of Directorate D "Water, Chemicals and Cohesion".

Lunch – Visit to the exhibition area

III: What will River Basin Management Plans deliver ? 14h30-16h00

- Presentation of the findings of the survey on significant water management issues and draft RBMPs
- Commission's expectation for RBMPs
- Stakeholders' views on draft RBMPs
- Discussion (+ questions from online participants)

IV: Water and agriculture 16h15-18h00

- Presentation of the findings of the draft RBMP survey on agriculture measures
- Presentations from Member States, agriculture interest groups and environmental NGOs
- Discussion (+ questions from online participants)



DAY 2 : 3 April 2009

V: Sustainable modifications to our water courses - focus on Hydropower & navigations 9h00-10h30:

- Presentation of the findings of the draft RBMP survey on hydro-morphology
- Presentations from Member States and interest groups
- Discussion (+ questions from online participants)

VI: Water pricing – sending the right signals for sustainable water use ? 11h00-12h30

- Presentation of the findings of the draft RBMP survey on the use of economic instruments – cost recovery and the polluter pays principle
- Presentations from Member States and interest groups
- Discussion (+ questions from online participants)

Lunch – Visit to the exhibition area

VII: The 2015 challenge – environmental objectives and exemptions ? 14h00-15h00

- Presentation of the findings of the draft RBMP survey on the environmental objectives of the RBMPs and the use of exemptions under the WFD
- Presentations from Member States and interest groups
- Discussion (including questions from online participants)

VIII: Emerging issues in water management 15h30-17h00

- Presentations on "adaptation to climate change" and "the link with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive"
- Discussion (+ questions from online participants)

IX: Conclusions – future legacy of today's water management 17h00-18h00

- Conclusions by Karl Falkenberg, Director General of DG Environment (tbc)
- Closing of the conference

Information on registration:

There will be open registration without fee for a maximum of 400 participants. Participants may register online, via email or fax.

More information about the conference and the campaign "Plunge into the debate" is available on the EUROPA webpages: water.europa.eu/participate

Contact details:

The conference is organised by the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission with the assistance of Euro Keys Sprl.

If you have further questions regarding the conference, please contact:

Euro Keys Sprl

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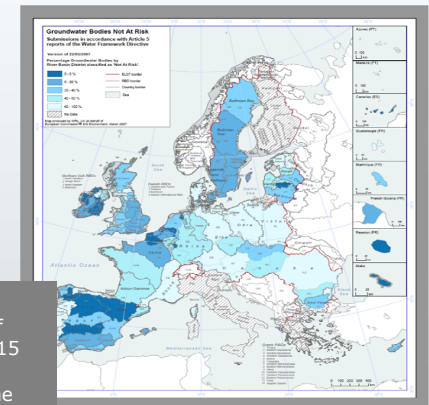
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Water bodies considered at risk of not reaching the 2015 goals in the 2004 assessment. Has the situation improved?