

**Common Implementation Strategy
for the Water Framework Directive
“Work Programme 2007- 09”**



**Final mandate for an activity on
“Climate Change and the EU Water Policy”
Phase: 2007- 09**

i. Introduction

In December 2006, the Water Directors agreed at their meeting in Finland to start a new Common Implementation Activity on water and climate change. A milestone succeeding this agreement was the Conference on Climate Change and the EU Water Dimension, held in Berlin on 12-14 February 2007. Key messages from this Conference are:

- It is time to adapt now! Scientific evidence urges action;
- EU water and marine policy should be used to factor in climate change;
- A successful adaptation strategy needs a common and integrated approach;
- The “user pays principle” needs to be fully implemented;
- Further research activities are necessary;
- Do not forget the world outside the EU!

With these key messages in mind and taking into account the upcoming Green Paper on Adaptation and the related stakeholder process, the new CIS activity on Climate Change will focus on making the best use of existing EU water legislation, identifying adaptation measures at different scales and providing input to the science community.

ii. Objectives, structure and key deliverables

Objectives

The objective of the activity is to:

- A. Identify best uses of current and existing EU water legislation.
- For the Water Framework Directive, the focus lies on the following aspects:
- to identify impacts of climate change on qualitative and quantitative issues in different regions of the EU
 - to identify the climate relevant gaps (e.g. pressures and impacts) in the Article 5 reports to provide a solid basis for further discussions
 - to identify what can and should be done in the different upcoming River Basin Management planning cycles

In other CIS working groups (for example on Floods, Ecological Status, Agriculture, Hydromorphology and Water Scarcity and Drought) specific activities on climate change will continue to be developed related to their field of expertise. As an example of climate change related activities of the Floods WG, there may be activities in relation to the Flood Directive's requirement to take climate change into account in the preliminary flood risk assessment.

The CIS activity on Climate Change will however ensure that Climate Change is properly addressed in all Common Implementation Strategy Groups. In autumn 2007, the Steering Group will consult the other CIS groups on activities taking place related to climate change.

- B. Identify adaptation measures and best practices at different levels.
- Contribute to European Adaptation Strategies and ensure a cross-sectoral perspective;
 - Identify opportunities for adaptation and counter-productive actions in other EU policies;
 - Identify strategies and possible measures at national/regional level;
 - Identify EU funding possibilities for adaptation measures.

In this context synergies and feed backs with mitigation measures affecting the water cycle will be recognized.

- C. Strengthen the Science/Policy link on Climate Change and Water and ensure a science / policy interface by identifying research needs, communicating them to the research community and making best use of available research results.

Structure

A Strategic Steering Group will be established to assist the leaders in the activity. The other groups of the Common Implementation Strategy will deliver specific input from their field of expertise.

Key deliverables

The first key activity is a workshop in autumn 2007. This workshop will focus on how to take account of climate change in the first River Basin Management Plans, for example by improving the pressure and impact analysis related to effects of climate change and avoiding counter productive measures (objective A). Furthermore, it will provide the possibility to exchange information on adaptation measures at different levels (objective B).

The workshop outcomes will form the first building block for policy papers on incorporating climate change in water management (second and third RBM planning cycles).

iii. Organisation and timetable

Germany and the European Commission will take the lead of the activity in close cooperation with the upcoming presidencies.

Representatives from Member States, stakeholders and NGOs for the Strategic Steering Group on Climate Change and Water need to be nominated before 1 September 2007.

To prepare the first workshop in November 2007, the Strategic Steering Group will convene in September 2007.

The co-leaders will present progress and intermediate outcomes to the Strategic Coordination Group and the Water Directors.

iv. Links with other working groups

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, some tasks will continue to be tackled by already established working groups. In first instance, these are Working Group A, Working Group F,

the SSGs on Agriculture and Hydromorphology and the Expert Network on Water Scarcity and Droughts. These groups will provide an overview of their planned activities related to Climate Change to the Strategic Steering Group in early September 2007. The leaders of the Climate Change activity will coordinate activities related to climate change in other groups.

v. Contact person/s

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