



Preliminary Conference Conclusions



CAP & WFD Conference, Vienna, 2 - 3 March 2006



Remembering: Aim of the conference

- **Strengthen the dialogue between the different stakeholders**
- **Exchange: views, best practice examples & national approaches in the field of water management and agriculture**
- **Discuss the issue reports on water pricing, Cross Compliance & co-operation**

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2



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Where will the key messages go?

- **Conference summary**
- **Update of the issue reports**
 - **Please provide us further comments & examples from your MS**
- **Further work process of the SSG**
- **Invitation to include in work in the Member States**



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First key messages I

- **Overall remarks**
 - Strengthening understanding
 - Time tables of WFD implementation, CAP review and evolution of RDR do not match well, and time is short
 - BUT: There are “windows of opportunities” (2007-2009)
 - Need continuous information exchanges among MS and stakeholders



First key messages II

• Rural development

- Rural Development is an important tool
- However Art. 38 RDR is difficult to consider at the moment as measures under the Programme of Measures are not defined
- Important time pressure in view of national RD implementation (2007-2013)
- Funds are limited
 - Define priorities
 - Efficient allocation and use of available funds
 - Additional sources of funding within and outside the CAP



First key messages III

• Cross Compliance

- Current Cross Compliance can be an important building block for WFD implementation, but it does not address all pressures
- Assess the present system before deciding if it needs to be further developed (stepwise approach)
 - ensure full compliance first
 - improve standards (e.g. Annex III or IV of CAP Regulation)

• Advisory service

- crucial for success especially for implementing RD measures and Cross Compliance



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First key messages IV

• Water Pricing (WFD)

- Is it an objective “per se” (Art. 9) or is it a mean (Art. 11)?
 - Incentive pricing needs to be considered as a potentially cost-effective measure to reach WFD objectives (Art. 11)
 - Need to clarify: “water uses” in Art. 9 WFD



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First key messages V

• Co-operation

- Opportunity to create win-win solution and to achieve acceptance of all stakeholders
- Need to co-operate to solve problems on the ground
- Need to balance objectives across policies:
 - “Proportionality” of WFD (e.g. Art. 4 / Art. 9)
 - “Reasonable Standard of Living” of CAP (and RDR)
- Cross Compliance enhances communication water-agriculture



The way forward I

- **Assessment of public opinion & willingness to pay**
- **Assessment of effects of WTO rules, interpretation and likely evolution**
- **Impact of energy policy on agriculture, including bio-materials, & water resource protection & management**
- **Scoping study on impacts of cost effective measures & approaches (agricultural pressures) for instance**
- **Evaluation of “agri-environmental” measures and their impact on water**



The way forward II

- **Assess the cost of different option of co-operation at the different levels**
- **Information share on advisory services (farm advisory or new water management advisory?)**
- **Detailed assessment of impacts of CAP payments on water use / incentives of pricing**
- **Costs of inaction**



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The way forward III - Next Steps

- Further comments on the background papers by 15 March 2006 (to Ecologic with cc to Gilles and Poul)
- Collecting ideas (and enthusiasm and support) for continuation beyond 2006
- Next meeting of SSG on 19 September in Brussels
- Synthesis Report to Water Directors in November 2006