Working Group 1a:

Rural Development and the WFD

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WG leading questions

- How important is the consideration of water management issues when establishing Rural Development programmes in your Member State?
- What are the main challenges for using RD measures in WFD implementation in your Member State?
- Which aspects are covered under RDR Article 38 by your Member State?

1. Importance of water management

- Two comprehensive presentation from Austria and Finland
  - Finland: Focus on Leader+ approach - establishment of local action groups
  - Austria: Voluntary approach instead of command and control measures
  - Both countries focus on agri-environmental measures
- For some other MS water protection is important part of RD programmes

2. Main challenges

- Different time-tables created the problems in linking both policies
  - e.g. it is difficult to define Art. 38 RDR measures without clear knowledge on the RD budget and measures which help implement WFD requirements
- The consequences of WFD objectives implementation for agriculture cannot be fully estimated at the moment

2. Main challenges

- Focus on “at-risk zones” vs. comprehensive approach
- Funding on water protection inside of RD budget is and will be limited
  - MS should define priorities
  - MS should effectively use available resources

2. Main challenges

- Define win-win solutions with multi-directorial benefits
- Better communication between stakeholders is needed
  - Different sectors and levels
  - Member States

3. Aspects covered under RDR Art. 38

- At present only some countries consider using RDR Art. 38 measures
- It can be expected that RDR Art. 38 measures will be used when Programmes of Measures will be developed

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