



Working Group 2: Cross Compliance and the WFD

Rainer Müssner / Floor Brouwer



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



WG leading questions

- How does cross-compliance currently relate to the requirements of the WFD in your MS?
- What are the main benefits of implementing cross-compliance for the WFD in your MS?
- What are the future perspective of cross-compliance to meeting the WFD in your MS?

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

2



1. Cross Compliance basics

- Aim of CC is to enforce the compliance with existing, basic (!) environmental, public and animal health, animal welfare and food safety standards regulations
- CC is one instrument in the wider context of CAP reform (WTO negotiations and use of tax payers money)
- Links societal expectations (e.g. clean environment, food safety) to financial incentives in the farming sector
- Basically it is not meant to improve the environmental situation significantly, but to safeguard minimum standards (“re-enforcement tool”)
- Consists of two basic areas: Statutory management Requirements (SMRs) and Good agricultural and environmental conditions (GAEC)
- CC brought EU regulations / directive in the heart of the CAP



2. Relation CC to WFD requirements

- CC is very likely contributing to the objectives of WFD (consensus), although it might be difficult to quantify these benefits.
- Vice versa the WFD might have an influence on the level of compliance to some of the SMRs (e.g. Nitrate directive) and GAECs
- It will be one building stone together with other instruments, but its overall influence on the objectives of WFD is limited
- CC is mainly focusing on diffuse pollution and soil issues and to a lesser content to hydrological regimes and hydro-morphological pressures
- Reaction of farmers to CC is non homogeneous and depends on several factors e.g. farm structure, age of farmer



3. Issues we discussed

- **Double jeopardy / punishment (legal prosecution+ reduction of direct payments)**
- **Changing of farmers behaviour depends mainly on the success of farm advisory services (How to get the message to the farmer?!)**
- **Is CC really a level playing field? (variation in level of national implementation)**
- **Relation between Codes of Good farming practice and CC**



3. Main benefits for implementing CC

- **Level of compliance with existing standards (including WFD related) will rise (consensus)**
- **Positive side effect of CC is an enhanced communication between different administrative sectors (e.g. water, agri, health, food safety)**
- **In some cases farmers look actively for advice due to CC**
- **The possibility to change farmers behaviour depends mainly on the success of farm advisory services (how to get the message to the farmer)**



4. Future perspectives of CC: The way ahead

- **Review / assess the present system before deciding whether there is a need/option for a further development of SMRs and GAECs (stepwise approach)**
- **Firstly priority should be given to proper implementation of the current CC, i.e. the implementation of farm advisory systems and efficient control mechanisms**
- **Secondly added value for a future development should be considered**
- **Different options / methods to increase the efficiency of advisory services should be applied**