



WFD meets CAP – Looking for a consistent approach

20 – 21 September 2007, Paris (France)

Dear Madam or Sir,

The French Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development and Planning and the European Commission cordially invite you to participate in the Conference on “WFD meets CAP – Looking for a consistent approach” to be held on 20-21 September 2007 in Paris. The Conference is part of the work carried out by the CIS Strategic Steering Group (jointly chaired by the EU Commission, UK and France) focussing on the linkages between the WFD and agriculture. The event is the third Conference in a series of Conferences (London 2005, Vienna 2006) directed towards stakeholders and policy-makers from the agricultural and water sectors in EU-27 Member States.

Conference background

In 2005-2006, the EU Strategic Steering Group on Agriculture (SSG) mainly focused its activity on identifying the gaps between WFD requirements and existing CAP. A first analysis of agricultural pressures and impacts on water bodies was prepared. The new mandate (2007-2009) of the SSG activity specifies that one of the main objectives of the Group will be to compile alternative ideas, measures and solutions in a catalogue of measures in order to help Member States in the preparation of the programmes of measures. A second objective of the mandate is the continuation of the exchange of information, in order to identify “success stories”.

Aim and objectives of the Conference

The level of analysis possible under the previous works of the SSG was limited as it was in advance of the river basin management plans and their associated programmes of measures. Few practical case studies were therefore available and part of this work remained theoretical. Now several Member States have started detailed works setting up first programmes of measures. The Conference will provide a forum to discuss the different approaches (e.g. voluntary versus mandatory) as well as different types of measures (economic, technical). The event should also be used to exchange different experiences gained and lessons learned from the different approaches.

Further, prospective questions, such as the impacts of new technologies, the effects of the EU Biomass Action plan, were also poorly addressed. The aim of the Conference is to discuss these issues in more details. In addition, regarding the recent developments of the issue of water scarcity and droughts, a specific focus will be given on the way to address these water quantity issues.

In order to achieve the highest benefits, the Conference will include working groups and a discussion in plenary sessions.

Target group

The Conference is addressed to EU policy makers (DG Agriculture, DG Environment, DG JRC, DG Research), national policy makers of EU 27 (ministries and administrations related to agriculture and environment), European and national unions and organisations, NGOs and researchers from the area of agriculture and water management.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Conference!

Pascal Berteaud

Peter Gammeltoft

Conference organised by

