

# Danube River Basin Stakeholder Conference

## *Parallel Work Session II*

### Hazardous Substances

### Reporting-back session

# Feedback on the Roof Report

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Report contains valuable and valid information

- Flashlight of the current situation
- Helps to identify most serious pollutants

.....but still some issues are missing

- Information on pressures based on emissions data (see nutrients)
- Suspended solids and biota (high bio-availability)
- Information about pathways of substances

Complex issue and limited resources for screening and monitoring

## Possible measures

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### Effective monitoring

- Continued and harmonised monitoring (TNMN, Joint Danube Survey)
- Focus on relevant substances/compounds
- Regional and local conditions need to be considered (natural background concentrations)
- Cost-effectiveness

### Establishment of environmental quality standards for organo-compounds and heavy metals

- Co-ordination with work of the EU-Commission

## Possible measures

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Thorough information on emissions and the use of hazardous substances

- Source-oriented approach

Formulation of appropriate policies for reducing the use of priority hazardous substances

- National pollution reduction schemes supported by overall political commitment
- Promotion of the precautionary principle
- Linking with other EU directives

# Possible measures

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## Raising awareness

- Risk-based approach
  - Educating public stakeholders and industry
  - Shift in mindset: water quality is not charity but rather an investment
  - Possible role for ICPDR
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- Activity of stakeholders: memorandum/ statement on goals and objectives

## Present status in the Danube basin (II)

- Cadmium and lead: most serious inorganic contaminants
  - Downstream locations (below rkm 1071) values of 2-10 times higher than target value.
- Pesticides: alarming concentrations
  - In some tributaries and in the lower Danube,
  - DDT of special concern in entire basin; other substances (e.g. 2,4-D, Alachlor, Trifluralin and Atrazine and copper compounds) found at local hot spots,
  - Current low use of agricultural pesticides: unique opportunity to develop more sustainable agricultural systems, before new dependency on the use of agro-chemical products.

## Follow-up (I)

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### Closing the knowledge gap

- Improving data quality
  - Ensuring equal analytical capabilities in all TNMN laboratories,
  - Training of laboratory personnel in the analysis of "new" priority substances,
  - Implementing robust and sensitive analytical methods with detection limits below the environmental quality standards set by the European Commission.
- National screenings for EU WFD priority substances
- Joint longitudinal surveys focused on priority substances (e.g. the planned Joint Danube Survey II or the planned survey on the Sava)
- Design of the monitoring programme for operational monitoring in line with Annex V WFD

## Follow-up (II)

### Documenting and using the knowledge

- Further development of existing inventories:
  - From European Pollutant Emission Register to a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register,
  - Organisation of information across the basin and with other sources.
- Development of measures for the introduction of “best available techniques” and best environmental practices”
  - Without delay to meet targets set by WFD,
  - Together with the relevant partners: agriculture, industry, mining...
  - In the entire Danube basin.
- Securing necessary investment on the basis of clear priority setting

## Discussion

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### Main question

- Do you perceive the specific problem area of hazardous substances, as presented in the **Roof Report**?
- Are your **priority issues** adequately reflected? Do you have any further concerns?

### Possible additional questions

- What could be **possible approaches** to minimize relevant impacts especially on the transboundary level?
- How could **stakeholder input** be improved and strengthened in relation to the specific problem area?

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