

Cover Note for Workshop Delegates

Dear delegate,

The European Commission will present a draft mandate for a Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) activity on hydromorphology and the Water Framework Directive (WFD) at the workshop. The conclusions of the workshop will be taken into account in further developing this mandate.

The Strategic Coordination Group will discuss the mandate at its meeting in October and the Water Directors will be asked to endorse the mandate at their meeting in London on 28 – 29 November 2005.

Day 1 of the workshop will focus on policy integration issues of the CIS activity on hydromorphology and the WFD. This is to enable policy experts to attend for Day 1 only, if they so wish. Days 2 and 3 of the workshop will focus on technical aspects of the CIS activity.

Purpose and organisation of Day 1 (policy integration part)

The purpose of Day 1 is to gather views on:

- The policy integration issues of key relevance to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive; and
- If and how such issues should be addressed within the follow-up CIS activity.

Delegates will be given an opportunity to contribute views during the plenary discussions.

To facilitate these discussions, the organisers would like to invite delegates to prepare for the workshop by considering:

- How the different policies leading to hydromorphological pressures on surface water bodies are likely to interact in practice with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in their country;
- Which of these interactions, be they synergistic or antagonistic, are likely to have the most significant implications for implementation in their country;
- Their first views on key issues for a better integration between those policies and the water policy;
- The potential benefits they see of considering these interactions further as part of the follow-up CIS activity on hydromorphology and the WFD; and
- The objectives and structure they would like to see for any follow-up activity on policy integration issues.

Purpose and organisation of Days 2 & 3 (technical part)

The Technical Issues Paper, which you have received, gives details of the issues that we will be discussing during the parallel working groups of sessions IV and V on Day 2 of the workshop. We hope you will find this information useful in preparing your contributions to the discussions.

You have been asked to sign up for the following parallel working groups:

Session IV:

- Risk assessment criteria; or
- Criteria for identifying and designating HMWB.

And Session V:

- Mitigation measures compatible with hydropower; or
- Mitigation measures compatible with navigation; or
- Mitigation measures compatible with a range of activities including flood defence.

You will be asked to make the following contributions depending on the parallel working group for which you have signed up.

Session IV: Risk assessment criteria

- For Member State delegates and those representing other countries, a brief description of the methods and risk criteria used in characterisation work to date. You may wish to prepare up to two PowerPoint slides for this purpose.
- For Member State delegates and those representing other countries, a brief description of the methods and risk criteria planned to be used in the next round of characterisation work and how you expect this work to feed into the development of programmes of measures. You may wish to prepare up to two PowerPoint slides for this purpose.
- For all delegates, your view on what follow-up work on risk assessment criteria could usefully be undertaken as part of the Common Implementation Strategy.

Session IV: Criteria for identifying and designating HMWB

- For Member State delegates and those representing other countries, a brief description of the methods and criteria used to identify provisional heavily modified water bodies in your country. You may wish to prepare up to two *PowerPoint* slides for this purpose.
- For Member State delegates and those representing other countries, a brief description of the work you are planning to undertake to confirm that the conditions for designation are met and of the criteria you plan to use in assessing whether the conditions are met. You may wish to prepare up to two *PowerPoint* slides for this purpose.

- For all delegates, your view on what follow-up work on HMWB identification and designation criteria could usefully be undertaken as part of the Common Implementation Strategy.

Session V: Mitigation measures compatible with the specific water use discussed in your parallel working group (hydropower OR navigation OR a range of activities including flood defence)

- For Member State delegates and those representing other countries, a brief summary of the work being undertaken to identify mitigation measures in your country and, for all delegates, the mitigation measures you consider likely to be compatible with the specific water use discussed in your working group. You may wish to prepare up to two *PowerPoint* slides for this purpose.
- For Member State delegates and those representing other countries, a brief outline of the system in your country for ensuring all practicable mitigation measures are taken before significant new modifications to the physical characteristics of surface water bodies are allowed for the specific water use discussed in your working group.
For all delegates, examples of mitigation measures you consider are likely to be practicable in relation to new developments relevant to the specific water use discussed in your working group. You may wish to prepare up to two *PowerPoint* slides for this purpose.
- For all delegates, your view on what follow-up work on mitigation measures could usefully be undertaken as part of the Common Implementation Strategy.

We look forward to meeting you and hearing your contributions in Prague,

The workshop organisers