



Report from the WFD meeting, August 2009

The Water Framework Directive

– Sharing experiences and meeting future challenges





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This report is a summary of the presentations and group discussions at the WFD meeting, August 20-21, 2009. A short summary from the open seminar and side event during the World Water Week, August 19, 2009, is also included. The speakers' presentations can be found at www.vattenmyndigheterna.se/vattenmyndigheten/wfd_conf/

Editors: Hanna Tornevall and Maria Göranson.

Text: Jennie Svedén, Albaeco.

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“It is important to share experiences, not only success stories”

From the 1st of July 2009 Sweden holds the Presidency of the European Union. As a part of the Swedish Presidency this agency meeting, “The Water Framework Directive – sharing experiences and meeting future challenges”, was held at the Stockholm International Fairs, August 20-21, 2009.

The Water Framework Directive meeting also served as the official EUROPE-INBO 2009 meeting. The Swedish River Basin District Authorities hosted the meeting together with INBO.

The Water Framework Directive commits all EU member states to achieve good water status by the year 2015. A big step towards this goal will be made at the end of this year, when all member states have to report their River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures to the Commission.

This will be the end of the first six-year-cycle of the Water Framework Directive and calls for reflection and sharing of experiences, as well as preparation for the coming cycle.

Participants from all over Europe

Over 130 participants from 24 countries joined forces during the two days to discuss achievements so far – and challenges to come.

The meeting took place during the World Water Week in Stockholm, hosted by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).

By holding the Water Framework Directive meeting during the World Water Week the global context becomes even clearer. Water management is truly a global challenge!

Three major themes

The programme had three major themes, each with introductory speeches, examples from different River Basin Districts and time for group discussions and conclusions presented in summary to the whole group.

- Draft River Basin Management Plans – focus on public participation
- Climate Change – challenges for water management
- Programmes of Measures – economic aspects.



Moderator during the two meeting days was Mr. Claes Sjöberg.



Mr. Ovidiu Gabor, President of EUROPE-INBO, and Mr. Björn Sjöberg, Director of the Skagerrak and Kattegat River Basin District Authority, welcomed the participants.

An opportunity to reflect and look to the future

Mr. Björn Sjöberg, Director of the Skagerrak and Kattegat River Basin District Authority, welcomed everyone on behalf of the Swedish River Basin District Authorities. Mr. Sjöberg pointed out that the meeting was a milestone in European water management, giving an opportunity to reflect, look to the future and build networks. “It is important to share experiences, not only success stories!”

Mr. Ovidiu Gabor, Deputy Manager of Romanian Water Authorities and President of EUROPE-INBO continued the opening of the meeting, which was the 7th EUROPE-INBO conference for the Water Framework Directive implementation.

Mr. Ovidiu wished for the meeting to be a success and ended his speech by saying, “What we are doing now is for our life, our children and our future.”

Open seminar and side event during the World Water Week

As part of the EU agency meeting a seminar and side event, open to all participants at the World Water Week, were arranged.



Mr. Pierre Yves Monette, Secretary-General of EUREAU, opened the seminar.



The open seminar and the following side event attracted some ninety participants.



Some of the speakers at the side event: Ms. Véronique Verdeil, Mr. Björn Sjöberg, Mr. Tamsri Ndiaye and Mr. Jean-François Donzier.

“Upstream Emission Control of Water Framework Directive: Priority and Priority Hazardous Substances”

A seminar hosted by EUREAU, the Swedish Water and Wastewater Association and the Swedish River Basin District Authorities

Mr. Arne Jamtrot, city of Stockholm, presented a project in which five priority substance groups have been identified (Polyfluorinated Compounds (PFC) among others), many originating from textiles.

Mr. Lennart Sorby, Director of the Northern Baltic River Basin District Authority, Sweden, pointed out mercury, cadmium, nickel and tributyltin (TBT) as important.

The problems with diffuse sources for waste water treatment plants were addressed by Mr. Raphael Demouliere, French Ministry of Environment.

Mr. Arthur Thornton, Atkins, described a UK project that has studied diffuse sources like domestic inputs, town centres (dentists, dry cleaners etc), light industry and runoff.

Finally, Dr. Eva Brorström-Lundén, Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL), presented the EU-research project SOCOPSE (www.socopse.eu) that has developed a decision support system to tackle Priority Substances.

During the panel discussion, mercury, cadmium, DEHP, PFC, PAH and phthalates were pointed out as important Priority Substances. Mr. Jamtrot emphasized the role of textiles as an important source of pollutants today.

Main outputs of the workshop were:

- the significance of challenges that we have set ourselves in controlling the Priority Substances/Priority Hazardous Substances;
- the significant costs and risks if the wrong solutions are selected;
- the fact that the challenges can only be met by adopting a range of solutions;
- no member state will be able to solve these challenges on their own and there is an urgent need for action at an EU level.

“Responsibilities of River Basin District Authorities and Financing: Recommendations from the GWP/INBO Handbook on Integrated Water Resources Management in Basins”

A side event hosted by INBO, the Global Water Partnership (GWP) and the Swedish River Basin District Authorities

To address the multi-faceted nature of water management, many countries are introducing an integrated approach at the national and basin level. To support this process, GWP and INBO have jointly produced a handbook to provide guidance on effective IWRM implementation.

Mr. Martin Walshe, Deputy Executive Secretary of GWP, introduced the side-event. Ms. Véronique Verdeil, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs in France, started with the French context which has worked with river basin authorities since 1964. The system of Basin Committees ensures stakeholders' coordination and participation. The Water Agencies are essential financial instruments at river basin level, collecting funds from water users and redistributing them to priority issues.

Mr. Björn Sjöberg, Director of the Skagerrak and Kattegat River Basin District Authority, Sweden, shared the experiences so far: public and stakeholder involvement is of high importance but requires resources and long-term commitment. Mr. Kálmán Papp, Head of Hungarian Water Authorities, presented the Hungarian context within the transboundary basin of Danube, which passed from flood management to integrated management.

Mr. Tamsir Ndiaye presented the activities and financing sources of the International Organization for the Development of the Senegal, underlining the difficulties in mobilizing financing. Dr. Eugene Z. Stakhiv presented the “IWRM Guidelines” coordinated by UNESCO.

Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Permanent Secretary of INBO, closed the seminar by presenting the work of INBO. The GWP/INBO Handbook for IWRM in basins gives practical advice and examples on key issues for basin authorities: institutions, participation, fundings, planning, programming, monitoring, information. He underlined the need for a significant increase in training programs.

Pictures from the World Water Week 2009

Hosted and organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), the World Water Week in Stockholm has been the annual focal point for the planet's water issues since 1991.

The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and

civic communities.

This year the World Water Week placed special focus on trans-boundary waters, an issue that was also discussed during the Water Framework Directive meeting.



Draft River Basin Management Plans

– focus on public participation

An important task for the River Basin District Authorities is to encourage people, communities and organisations to participate in water management. But how do we obtain good public participation in an efficient way? How do we spread information and to whom?

Introduction

Mr. Patrick Weingertner, Head of the Water Planning and Water Framework Directive Department of the Rhine-Maas Water Agency, France

Mr. Weingertner introduced the first theme of the meeting by sharing his experiences on public participation in France.

In 2008, France carried out a national public consultation within the Water Framework Directive. All households, in all six river basins, received a questionnaire with questions regarding water quality, water management and willingness to pay.

The questionnaires were advertised with a communication campaign including mascots, magazines, ads in the daily press, radio and TV, and through a website. Several NGOs were also involved in the public consultation, among other things through the organisation of public debates.

Mr. Weingertner summed up the experience by concluding that the response was large. The consultation reached a varied public and many gave their opinions. Depending on the river basin the degree of response varied from less than 1 to 4 %. Some concern was addressed to the fact that few young people answered – campaigns in schools might be needed.

The public consultation resulted in an additional document to the management plan, reflecting the result; to reinforce the pace for good status, to accelerate the re-establishment of ecological continuity and to emphasize the reduction of agricultural pollution. The result was also communicated back to the public.



Experiences from three River Basin Districts

Hungary, Mr. Kálmán Papp,
Head of Hungarian Water Authorities



In Hungary, websites on the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan processes (reports, drafts and final documentations) are used for public information and consultation. Other foras used for consultation are professional and stakeholder workshops, Water Management Council Meetings (at the national, regional and local level), River Basin Management planning unit areas and extrathematic consultations. Media events and press conferences are held at the national level (the Central Directorate) as well as at the regional and local level. There are 12 water directorates/agencies.

Due to the cost, Hungary has carried out the public consultation on a smaller scale than France. One of the experiences is that the agricultural sector has not been well represented in the consultation process. Nevertheless, organic pollution is still high and many wetlands are under pressure from intensive agriculture.



Norway,
Mr. Håvard Hornnæs
Senior Advisor at Glomma
Water District Authority

In Norway, a website with general information, news and publications etc. is used in the public consultation process. GIS information on water bodies is available to everyone on the web and

connected to Google maps. Consultations on regional work programs, draft River Basin Management Plans etc. are held and advertised through newspapers, websites, conferences and invitations by mail and e-mail. Reference group meetings are arranged at the national, River Basin District and Sub River Basin District level.

The feedback has not been very impressive, mostly from authorities, municipalities and farmers. Public participation has been poor at the River Basin District level but better on a more local level. Time, resources and a dedicated person in charge is required! Norwegians are generally engaged in environmental issues – is the lack of participation due to the fact that Norway is blessed with lots of fairly clean water?

Ireland, Dr. Anthony Mc Nally,
RBD Coordinator, Donegal County Council



The public consultations on the draft River Basin Management Plans are advertised through media, websites, e-mails, hard copies to sectoral interest groups and information days. Mapping tools are a key element of the consultation (WaterMaps). Information on water body status, risks, objectives and measures is available in water body reports on the internet. This is an important part of the awareness process – what happens in my river?

Public Information meetings (6 hour events), with questionnaires available, have been held in all River Basin Districts and were advertised in local and national media. Substantial written submissions have been received from public bodies, environmental NGOs and sectoral groups – but few from individual public members. A stakeholder/public buy-in is needed for success. We have to use technology and smart thinking to reach the public – this is not trivial!

Conclusions from group discussions

Presented by Mr. Bo Sundström,

Bothnian Bay River Basin District Authority, Sweden



- Time and resources are needed – do not underestimate!
- Improve the goal setting – focus on key organisations and target groups, involved at the right time and level.
- KISS – Keep It Simple and Stupid – We have to simplify more!
- Use existing opportunities – events, concerts etc.
- Internet is good – but use local newspapers and media more!
- The French example is good – but maybe too costly.



What will you take with you from this meeting?



Evzen Zeman,
DHI, Czech Republic

"Definitely some sort of broader perspective of water than we are usually seeing. I work in central-eastern Europe, we know our problems and try to solve them, but with this broader perspective you can see many more different angles."



Anemari Ciurea,
European Commission, Belgium

"The main thing is that we have to pay more attention to water management. I am working to achieve the millennium goals, the water facility of the European Commission. We have to pay more attention to the sustainability of the water resources and to find cost recovery solutions, even for Africa, even for poor people, for sustainability. So we have to pay attention to the sustainability of the water resources and the sustainability of the water services. These are the two main issues that I would like to understand better and to use more effectively in my day to day work."



Emmanuel Didon,
Direction Régionale de l'environnement
Centre, Loire-Bretagne River Basin
District, France

"I think that the most interesting thing for me was public consultation; we could see that there are very different approaches between the different countries and it is interesting to see what other countries can do. The climate change is a very large debate and very difficult. In the north and south of the continent, things are rather precise, models are accurate. In the middle the trends are less visible, so it is still difficult to have really precise objectives and measures in our plans, in Midwestern Europe."



Eine Pirilä,
Finnish-Swedish Frontier Rivers Commission

"The similarities and, at the same time, dissimilarities in European water management."



Alexandru Pinta,
National Administration
"Apele Romane", Romania

"It is interesting what you discuss; the framework means a new vision about our adaption to the European legislation. It is interesting because all the countries want to do the same thing at the same time. There have been a number of very good aspects. Because of democracy, every aspect is brought into the discussion. It is interesting that all decisions are made with all the people, that is very good."



Aleksandra Gjoeska,
Southeast European Cooperative
Initiative, Austria

"First of all, the positive attitude towards discussion, the dialogue that was established between the participants, especially during the work groups. It has been quite a long time since I participated in such working groups with such a constructive atmosphere as here. Also, I found the presentations very good, very on topic and focused, even quite a lot of new things about other countries."



Helena Segerwall,
Northern Baltic River Basin
District Authority, Sweden

"It has been interesting to listen to the experiences from other countries, and then compare it to how we are working. I can use the experiences in my forthcoming work."

Climate Change

– challenges for water management

Among many other tasks the EU will play an important role at the UN Climate Change Conference 2009 in Copenhagen in December. But how do we consider climate change in water management? What are the main challenges?

Introduction

Professor Sten Bergström, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), Sweden

Professor Bergström introduced the theme with a presentation on Water and climate change – recent concerns. Water availability, Sea level rise and Climate and energy are three main concerns. The global climate models indicate changed water availability in the world. Where there is lack of water, there will be even less.

Southern Europe faces a great challenge with tremendous increases in air temperature and less rainfall. In the northern Europe however, models show that precipitation will increase, and so might also hydropower production, which could be a part of the solution.

“We don’t show one map anymore, because there is not one answer”, Mr. Bergström said.

With all the models (global, regional, local) there are hundreds of scenarios and we have to be able to handle this ensemble. The local models are often uncertain. The IPCC report (2007) on sea level change, states an 18 – 59 cm sea level rise by 2100.

However, since the west Antarctic warming is not considered in this report, we can expect higher levels than previously thought. The number of megacities and their populations are growing along the coasts of the world. Many cities, like Stockholm for instance, have small margins to cope with the rising sea levels.



Experiences from three River Basin Districts

Netherlands, Dr. Wanda Zevenboom,
Senior Project Manager, RWS North Sea Directorate



Due to the geographical position below sea level as well as downstream, the Netherlands are facing serious challenges due to climate change. 80 % of the Dutch population lives within 60 km from the coastline. Climate change is caused by both natural causes and human impacts – “the human impacts we can do something about”, said Dr. Zevenboom.

According to models the Netherlands will face extreme discharges and conditions with wet winters and dry summers. Dr. Zevenboom emphasizes that the key is joint effort, in water management and adaptation to climate change – both between countries and between the fresh water sector and the marine sector. The principle of adaptive management will help us when models are insecure. Safety first – if a measure set was too strict, we can adapt later on.

Spain, Mr. Juan José Moragues
President of the Júcar River Basin Authority,
Vice president of MENBO



In climate models Spain is one of the most affected areas of the world, with raising temperatures and decreased rainfall – there are however different scenarios for different parts of the country. Climate change has effects on the intensity and frequency of floods and droughts, water availability and

demand, and water quality. A 9 to 25 % decrease in runoff is expected, depending on the river basin district.

There is also the problem with sudden floods, located where people are living. This is a combination of climate change and unfortunate spatial planning. Many cities have alarm systems; the floods can come very rapidly. There will be a need for adaptation with regard to storing, managing, distributing and delivering water resources. Some of the measures to fight water scarcity in the Júcar River Basin Authority are the development of water supply infrastructures, water-efficient technologies, waste water use and desalination.

The River Basin District Scheldt ,
Mr. Jean-Marie Wauthier,
Head of Environmental Desk, Foreign Relations
of Walloon Region, Belgium



The River Basin District of Escaut is a transboundary basin involving the Netherlands, Belgium and France. This part of Belgium is very sensitive to sea level rise. This is also the most densely populated region in Europe and thus facing many challenges due to climate change.

In the carboniferous limestone of the area, there is an underground aquifer. Water from the aquifer has been used, mostly for drinking water and a small part for agriculture. Due to overexploitation of the aquifer and the composition of the soil, sink holes have developed. Today joint measures with Flanders and France are taken to protect the aquifer. Water is now collected from a quarry and a lot of infrastructure is built for the transportation of this water to the public.

“We are on the way to sustainability”, Mr. Wauthier said.

Conclusions from group discussions

Presented by Ms. Daniela Radulescu,
National Institute of Hydrology and Water Management, Romania



- No new international structures/commissions are needed; the existing ones should be reinforced!
- Costs of climate change adaptation are lower than costs of non-adaptation – Not taking measures will be more costly than waiting!
- The experience and expertise in efficient strategic planning of climate change adaptation and policy implementation is limited and should continue to be developed.
- The adaptation to climate change is a real challenge for the national authorities and also at inter-governmental level – it is a political question at an EU and global level!
- The development of certain guidelines and associated case studies have to be taken into consideration, and in this respect, Europe has to take leadership in this approach.



A sunny summer evening in the archipelago

On the evening of the first meeting day, all participants were invited to a dinner cruise in the Stockholm archipelago.

The ship took the guests through the archipelago to Vaxholm, an important town in the northern archipelago since the construction of Vaxholm Castle in 1549.

Mr. Lars Bäckström, Governor of Västra Götaland County and Chairman of the Water District Board of Skagerrak and Kattegat, hosted the dinner and thanked the participants for a day with good speeches and good discussions. In his speech he spoke about the forthcoming inauguration of the first Swedish marine National Park, the Koster Archipelago on the west coast of Sweden, something to be proud of!

During the cruise, Mr. Stefan Lundberg, expert in water ecology at the Museum of Natural History, shared his knowledge about what we can find below surface in the Baltic Sea. There are 40 different species of fish in the waters close to the city centre of Stockholm. Both Baltic Brown Trout and Salmon can be caught from the bridges in the middle of the city. This is an indication of successful conservation work.

Mr. Lundberg also mentioned the success story of the White-tailed Eagle. Due to the effects of PCB and DDT the population of this majestic bird of prey declined to about 30 individuals 30 years ago. Thanks to a conservation project including non-toxic winter feeding and conservation areas, involving both NGO:s and the Swedish EPA, the eagles are now everywhere!



The ecologically produced food and wine on the menu was accompanied by the female barbershop choir, called Rule #6.



Mr. Lars Bäckström, Governor of Västra Götaland County, welcomed everyone aboard the ship. Mr. Stefan Lundberg, expert in water ecology, shared his knowledge about the Baltic Sea.

Success stories are needed. The Baltic Sea, the world's largest brackish water sea, is facing many challenges. Eutrophication, pollution, overfishing, oil spills and alien species are all of major concern. The comparatively low species diversity and the enclosed position make this sea especially vulnerable for human-induced disturbance. Something to reflect upon while enjoying a fantastic, sunny summer evening in the archipelago.



Stockholm is surrounded by water. Just twenty minutes by boat from central Stockholm you will find yourself in the archipelago, a unique maritime landscape with more than 30,000 islands, islets and skerries.

Photo: Magnus Rietz

Programmes of Measures

– economic aspects

Water management is also a question about economics and how to put the resources where best needed. The overall aim is of course to reach good status. But water is not a product like any other; it is a common heritage and it is necessary for all life, which makes economic analysis more challenging.

Introduction

Ms. Maria Brättemark, the Water and Marine Protection Unit,
DG Environment at the European Commission

Ms. Brättemark introduced the theme with a presentation on the economic aspects of the River Basin Management Plans. The Commission is concerned about the shortcomings of the economic aspects of the first cycle. The situation has improved but is not as good as hoped for and the results from the first report on the implementation are rather disappointing. There is still an information deficit on the economical aspects. Some economic analyses are included in most draft plans, but several economic assessments are still ongoing.

In a first completeness check it was found that many draft plans do not include, or explicitly refer, to a cost-effectiveness analysis. Only 60 % of the River Basin Management Plans refer to water pricing. This limited attention is unclear and rarely explained in a sound manner.

There are also serious shortcomings in the reporting and Ms. Brättemark wonders if that is because of bad implementation or bad reporting as such? Generally a few countries, France, UK and the Netherlands, are ahead in the process and on time with reporting.

As future activities on economics, the Common Implementation Strategy 2010-2012, will request all Water Directors to renew the focus on economic issues. There is a need to follow-up on recent assessments of implementation of the economic elements of the Water Framework Directive.

In 2010 a workshop on Water Framework Directive economic issues will be held to identify possible future work on economics.



Experiences from three River Basin Districts

Scotland, Mr. Peter Pollard,
Senior Policy Advisor, Scottish Environment
Protection Agency



Mr. Pollard emphasized the importance of keeping it simple. Complicated economical methods are not the way. The most important economical analyses we are facing, are to persuade decision makers to prioritise the measures needed.

Mr. Pollard presented a method of prioritisation in restoration, which takes into account the potential area or length improved, contribution to other objectives (protection of rare species, salmon fishing etc.) and synchronisation with the timetable for action on other pressures in the area.

You should have multiple objectives with your restoration and look for where to get the biggest benefit for the money. Information from stakeholders with local knowledge is important to be able to do Cost Benefit Analysis. To choose the right measures and avoid disproportionate costs you have to know the gap to good status.



**Denmark, Mr. Hans
Christian Karsten**
Head of Water Department,
Danish Agency for Spatial
and Environmental Planning

Mr. Karsten began his presentation with a confession – Denmark is one year behind schedule in the Water Framework Directive process, due to the discussion on economics.

“Maybe we are late with the paperwork – but we have done our homework”, Mr. Karsten said.

The Government has a political agreement with

the majority of the Parliament (a “Green Growth Action Plan”), the Programmes of Measures are fully financed, the approved activities are identified and the measures will be fully operational in 2012.

The implementation of the Water Framework Directive is made in close cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture. Water quality is a permanent part of the political discussion.

Cost-Benefit Analysis have not been used in the first planning period, all activities are based on Cost-Effectiveness since the Cost-Benefit Analysis have methodical problems – the Commission’s help is needed!



**Bulgaria and France,
Ms. Géraldine Aubert,**
International Project Leader,
Water Agency of Artois-
Picardie Basin, France

Ms. Aubert presented the concept of twinning, a collaboration project with Bulgaria and France that started this year. The main objective of the project is to strengthen the administrative capacity of the water management authorities in Bulgaria, for the implementation of economic instruments for water management. Through twinning, experiences and lessons learnt from other countries can be used.

Within the French/Bulgarian project a Water Information System is being developed to strengthen data collection, integrate more economic information and ensure good reporting.

The economic analysis should be included in the River Basin Management Plans by this autumn. There is still some brainstorming on how the programmes of measures are going to be financed. There is the water bill but you do not want to put too much on households, like in all member states, water price and affordability is a sensitive issue.

Conclusions from group discussions

Presented by Mr. Mario Cerutti,
International Meuse Commission, Belgium

- It is difficult to find the best combination of measures – diffuse sources are most difficult to manage.
- Exemptions are necessary, not only to disproportionate costs.
- A better application of the polluter pays principle is needed for some sectors (agriculture, hydropower).
- Agreements at governmental level is required – the programmes of measures have to be put on the political agenda.
- More time is needed to achieve the objectives.
- It is not yet tested whether we have the appropriate financing mechanisms – a search for new instruments is recommended.



Two quick questions



Wanda Zevenboom,
RWS North Sea Directorate,
Netherlands

What has been most challenging during the first cycle of the WFD?

"That you have to jointly address the rivers, overstretching the borders of each country. That's a very challenging thing to do for fresh water systems. It is also a challenge that you have a part of the green system involved. It is a challenge to have the fresh water people meeting the marine people.

An important topic in water management is that you have your stakeholders close to the water bodies, close to the public. So it is a local obligation but you have to think across borders. Across border thinking and act locally!"

What are the main challenges for the future?

"For the next cycle it is to stabilize your cooperation and network. Not focusing only on your own water body but focusing also on the water bodies downstream. Secondly, that the EU-fora, the water framework directive, the marine strategy framework directive, and the existing riverine commissions and existing marine commissions (Helsinki, OSPAR, Barcelona, Black Sea), should all join forces as well. It is in an integrated way that you should focus on water. In the meantime, in the second plan, climate change could be more incorporated."



Maria Brättemark,
European Commission

What has been most challenging during the first cycle of the WFD?

"The directive is rather complex and most challenging is to achieve a common understanding for all the different links between different parts of the directive and a common understanding for what is really required. For the Commission it is a huge challenge to analyze the different process steps of the member states in a comparable way, since there are 27 member states. It is truly challenging for us but a part of our work. It is important that all member states are treated in a fair way."

What are the main challenges for the future?

"To have a high level of ambition in the implementation of the directive, to not give up and say that we could only reach the environmental goals for a small number of our water bodies. The level of ambition needs to be high and there has to be transparency, documented reasons for doing certain things and not others. Of course, climate change and integration with other policy areas are also important issues."



Kálmán Papp,
Central Directorate of Water
and Environment, Hungary

What has been most challenging during the first cycle of the WFD?

"To achieve a common understanding of the directive and to harmonize it with earlier national policies."

What are the main challenges for the future?

"The real implementation. Almost everybody has already achieved a draft plan. But even in our team, by the round table, it was formulated that we need, within a 10 year perspective, real concise, compact river basin management plans. We think that it could not be achieved by the end of next year, it needs more time."



Concluding presentations

– challenges for water management in the years ahead

Three concluding presentations were held after the final syntheses from the rapporteurs of the group discussions.



Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Ms. Maria Brättemark and Ms. Ann-Louise Månsson pointed out the main challenges for European water management.

Challenges for basin organisations

Mr. Jean-François Donzier,
Permanent Technical Secretary of INBO

Mr. Donzier started by pointing out the issue that all EU member states are adopting the same river basin approach at the same time. 110 river districts have been established, of which 40 are transboundary river basin districts, which puts even more demands on management.

The overall aim and the biggest challenge for these river basin districts are to reach “good status” for all surface and ground waters before 2015. A true reformation is needed in agriculture in order to obtain positive results.

Another important task is to manage the “Renewable Energy” directive and the Water Framework Directive, at the same time. We are also facing many common challenges due to climate change.

“Could we urge the EU Presidency to include water issues in the negotiations on Climate Change for the next Copenhagen UN conference?”, Mr. Donzier asked.

Challenges in the years ahead

Ms. Maria Brättemark, the Water and Marine Protection Unit, DG Environment, European Commission

Ms. Brättemark gave her view on the challenges in the years ahead. Major challenges are to meet all the expectations and objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

“We expect the Water Framework Directive to bring improved governance as well as integrated river basin management, on our way to reach good status. To meet these expectations we have to work together, both with active participation of stakeholders as well as public and international cooperation”, Ms. Brättemark said.

The starting points are very different among member states and so are the levels of ambition. The serious delays in consultations for some member states and the deficiency in reporting make delivery and compliance other major challenges. In order to cope with a changing environment integrated river basin management has to become a reality, at the same time as we are dealing with difficult economic situations.

Environmental challenges during the Swedish EU Presidency

Ms. Ann-Louise Månsson, Water Director,
Ministry of the Environment

Ms. Månsson closed the meeting with a presentation on the environmental challenges facing the Swedish EU Presidency, *Taking on the Challenge*.

“The future challenges are a top priority for my government”, Ms. Månsson said, pointing out climate change, eco-efficient economy, the marine environment and biodiversity as major tasks.

Water improvement will be prioritised during the Swedish Presidency, the Baltic Sea Strategy being a top priority. Less than half of the ecosystem services function properly in the Baltic Sea. The strategy involves environmental concerns and economic growth, coordination between EU policies and strengthened regional priorities and agreements.

For successful water management we need integration between sectors, co-operation at all levels of society and public participation. “We need changes in behaviour”.

Ms. Månsson ended her presentation by saying, “I think we all will go home this afternoon with new inspiration, new inputs and new good friends”.



Sweden assumed the Presidency of EUROPE-INBO

During the closing ceremony of the WFD meeting, Romania, which had the Presidency of the EUROPE-INBO group, handed the Presidency over to Sweden.

As a part of the official hand over of the EUROPE-INBO Presidency from Romania to Sweden, the

symbol of EUROPE-INBO, a drop of water, was given by Mr. Ovidiu Gabor to Ms. Ann-Louise Månsson, Water Director at the Ministry of the Environment.

Sweden will take on the Presidency for the coming year.



Mr. Ovidiu Gabor handed over the EUROPE-INBO symbol, materialised by a sculpture in the shape of a water drop, to Ms. Ann-Louise Månsson.



An agency meeting during the Swedish Presidency of the European Union



The WFD-meeting was organised by the Swedish River Basin District Authorities
in cooperation with INBO as the official EUROPE-INBO 2009 meeting



The Swedish River Basin District Authorities

Sweden is divided into five river basin districts.
Five County Administrative Boards are appointed
as River Basin District Authorities. They have the overall
responsibility for implementing the Water
Framework Directive in Sweden.

Learn more about the Swedish River Basin District
Authorities at www.vattenmyndigheterna.se



INBO aims at facilitating operational
exchanges between basin organisations.
The organisation was created in 1994
and is currently present all around the world,
with 188 members in 68 countries.

Learn more about INBO at
www.riob.org/friobang.htm