



A Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters

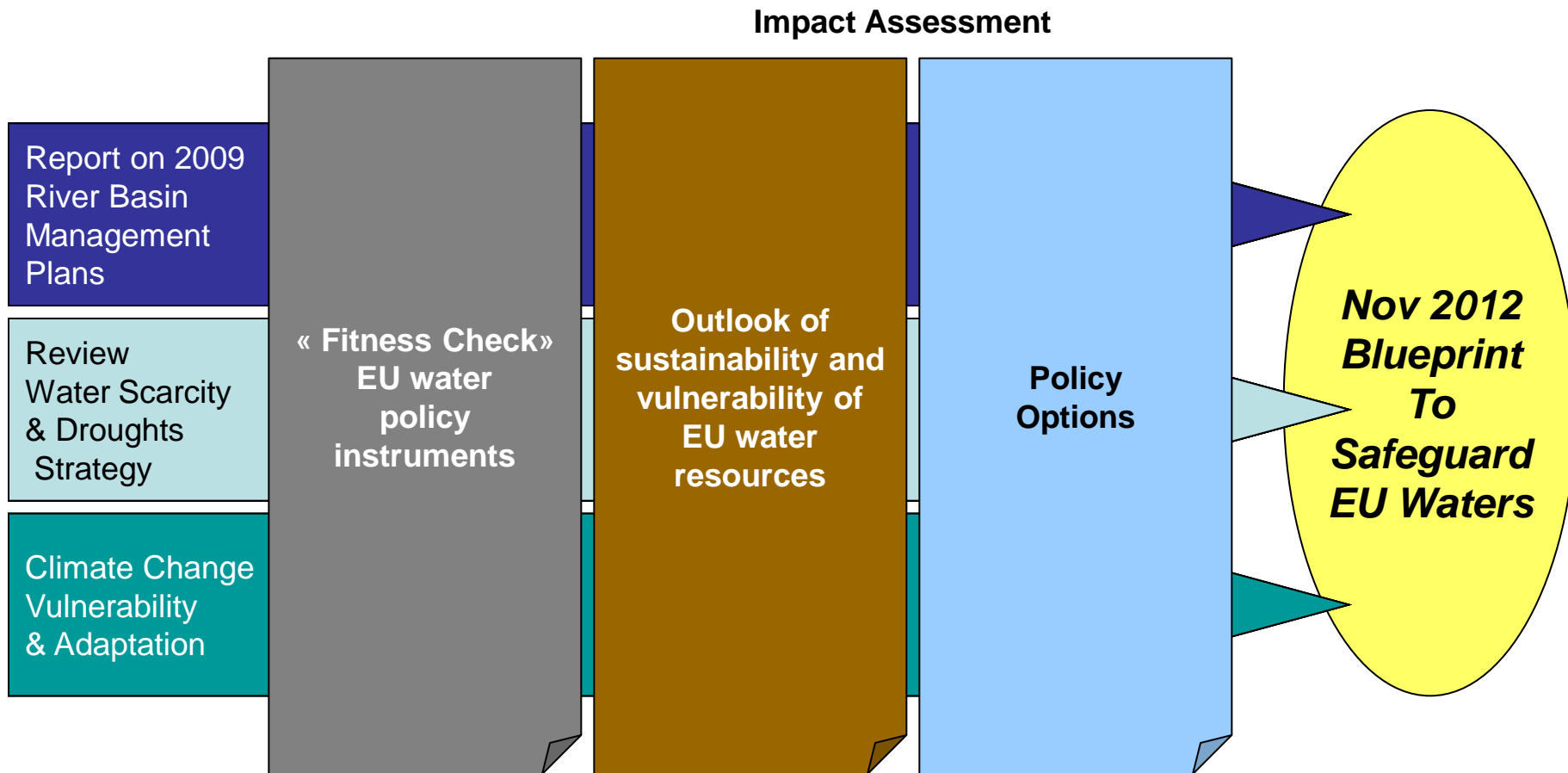
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Why a Blueprint?

- *long-term aim: to ensure sufficient availability of good quality water for sustainable and equitable water use*
- *Improving the **implementation** of current EU water policy*
- *Fostering the **integration** of water and other policies*
- *When necessary, seeking the **completion** of the current policy framework*

What we have done:



Assessment River Basin Management Plans: Some general preliminary findings

- A lot of effort put into **preparation** of the plans
- High uptake of the **common framework** and common language on water management provided by the WFD
- Integration of **ecological perspective** into water management
- Enhancement of **international cooperation**
- Public **participation**, stakeholder involvement
- Impressive improvement in the **knowledge base**
- All plans not submitted in **4 Member States**
- **Low ambition** in many of the plans (extensive use of exemptions)
- **Lack of concrete measures** and expected achievements
- **Lack of comparability** in some issues (e.g. chemical status!)
- Dressing "**business-as-usual**" as WFD



Water Scarcity & Droughts

- Gaps in current policy framework

Conceptual gaps:

Common understanding of WS&D

Adequate indicators

Information gaps:

Inadequate knowledge on abstraction, uses, balances

No clear understanding of effectiveness & impact of measures

Policy & governance gaps

Focus on drivers: land use

Demand-based measures: water efficiency

Water saving: pricing

Drought Management planning

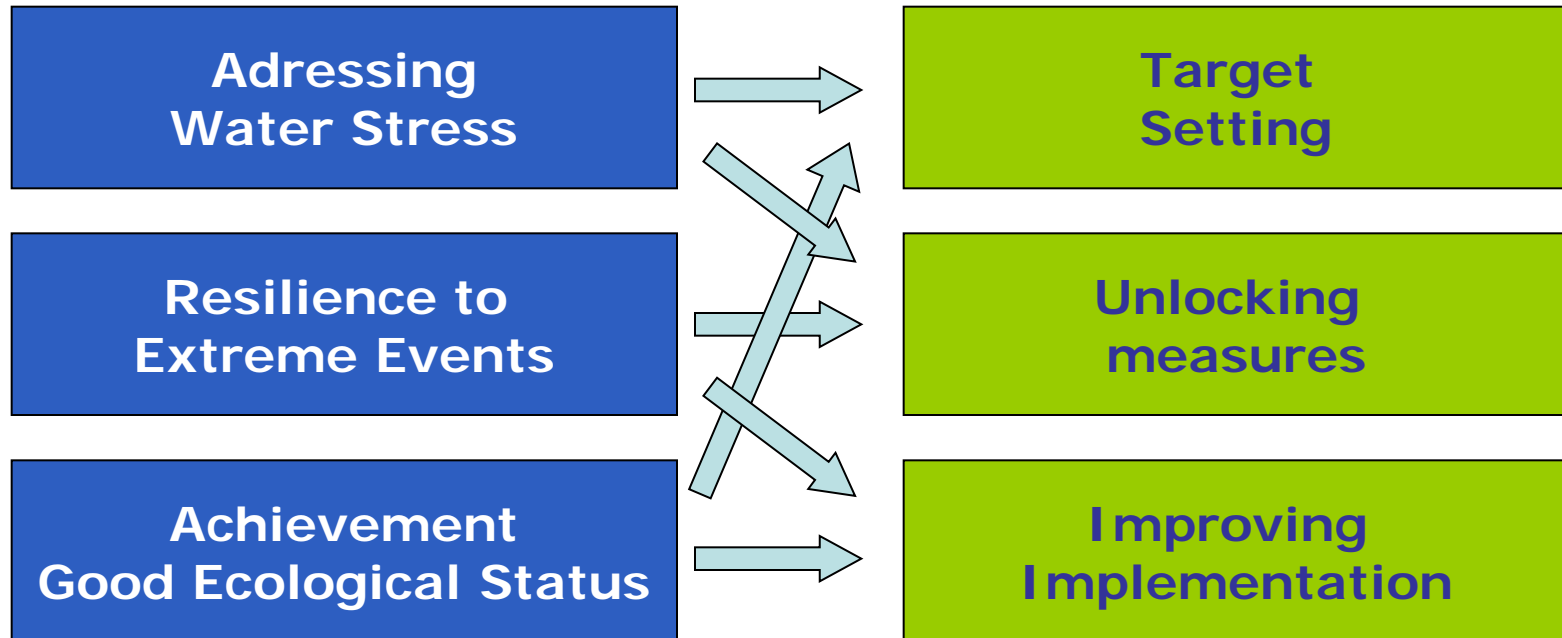
Implementation gaps:

Measures not linked to water stress & environmental flows

Clear roles and responsibilities

Funding

From Objectives to Policy Options





Blueprint impact assessment 12 priority problems

1. *Lack of water pricing*
2. *Lack of metering*
3. *Lack of labeling of traded goods*
4. *Land use/Agricultural impacts*
5. *Inefficiency in buildings/appliances*
6. *Inefficient water infrastructure*
7. *Lack of water re-use*
8. *Governance*
9. *Target setting*
10. *Drought management*
11. *Understanding costs and benefits*
12. *Knowledge base*



Blueprint policy options

- *Enforcement of legislation will be continued*
- *Early action is needed for uptake in 2015 RBMPs*
- *New policy options categorised as:*
 - *Voluntary options*
 - *Regulatory options*
 - *Conditionality*
 - *Funding priority*



Land use and ecological status

- *Guidance on Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)*
- *Use CAP pillar I & Structural & Cohesion Funds & EIB loans to support NWRM*
- *Apply GMES services to detect illegal abstraction*
- *Guidance on ecological flow and water accounts*



Chemical status and pollution I

- *Water Framework Directive: Enforce in particular monitoring requirements.*
- *Nitrates Directive: Extend nitrate vulnerable zones and reinforcing action programmes.*
- *Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive: Improve compliance rates through long-term investment and implementation planning (including EU funds and EIB loans).*



Chemical status and pollution II

- *Industrial Emissions Directive: Ensure that promote Best Available Techniques (BAT) and take into account relevant water objectives*
- *Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides: add to cross-compliance under CAP*
- *Environmental Quality Standards Directive: Adopt the Commission's proposal for amendments*
- *Pharmaceuticals: Present a report on pharmaceuticals and the environment*



Water efficiency I

- *Enforce water pricing/cost-recovery obligations, including metering when relevant*
- *Make water pricing/cost recovery an ex ante condition under the Rural Development and Cohesion policy funds*
- *Develop CIS Guidance on trading schemes and on cost/benefit assessment*
- *Make water use reduction a pre-condition for some irrigation projects under Rural Development*



Water Efficiency II

- *Develop CIS Guidance on water accounts (and ecological flow)*
- *Develop CIS Guidance on target-setting*
- *Include water-related products in the Eco-design Working Plan.*
- *Develop voluntary EU Ecolabel and Green Public Procurement criteria for water related products*
- *Spread best practices/tools to achieve a sustainable economic leakage level.*



Vulnerability I

- *Develop CIS Guidance on Natural Water Retention Measures (Green Infrastructure)*
- *Green CAP pillar I to support Natural Water Retention Measures (through ecological focus areas)*
- *Use Structural & Cohesion Funds & EIB loans to support Natural Water Retention Measures*
- *Enforce WFD requirements relevant to drought risk management*



Vulnerability II

- *Develop Flood Risk Management Plans*
- *Propose (regulatory) instrument on standards for water re-use*
- *Further develop the European Drought Observatory*



Cross-Cutting

- *Implement the Innovation Partnerships on Water and on Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability*
- *Set up and use a CIS peer review system for RBMPs*
- *Add Water Framework Directive requirements to cross-compliance under CAP*
- *Strengthening inspections and surveillance requirements*
- *Support awareness-raising tools on water consumption (e.g. voluntary labelling & certification schemes)*



Global Aspects

- *Support access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services*
- *Support integrated sustainable water resource management*



Delivery of Policy Options

- *Success of Blueprint depends on willingness and action by MS to involve stakeholders and improve implementation of existing legislation*
 - *Common Implementation Strategy to facilitate early implementation of Blueprint proposals*
 - *Enforcement through infringements where necessary*
 - *Possible new legislative initiatives*



The Blueprint package

- *Blueprint Communication COM(2012)673+ Impact Assessment SWD(2012) 381 & 382*
- *Report on River Basin Management Plans COM(2012)670*
- *Commission Staff Working Document, European Overview on River Basin Management Plans, Volumes 1 and 2 SWD(2012) 379*
- *Commission Staff Working Document, River Basin Management Plans, Volumes 3 to 30 (All Member States + Norway) SWD(2012) 379*
- *Communication on the Review of the European Water Scarcity and Drought Policy COM(2012)672 + accompanying Commission Staff Working Document SWD(2012)380*
- *Fitness Check SWD (2012)393*



Thank you for your attention

All docs available at

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm