



EEAC-Working Group Fresh Water June 26th, 2018

WIFI network: “VO Events”

WIFI password: “vl#@nderen”



The European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) is a network of advisory bodies established by national or regional governments. EEAC members offer independent advice to their respective national or regional governments and parliaments related to the environment and sustainable development.

Fourteen advisory bodies from eleven European countries and regions are member of the EEAC Network. With representatives from academia, civil society, the private sector and public bodies the EEAC network brings together experts with years of experience producing independent advice.



10h30 – Doors open

11h00 – Introduction by **Jan Verheeke**, Chairman of the EEAC Working Group

Setting the scene: WFD current state of affairs. Should EU-Member-States get more time and/or spent more money to conceive and implement the measures to achieve GES within the framework of the WFD?

12h00 – Coffee Break

12h15 – Introduction by **Sergiy Moroz**, European Environmental Bureau.

(1) Should economic thinking be more central in the implementation by the Member-States, and (2) Should the systems thinking of the WFD have transformed the water policies of Member-States?

13h15 – Light Lunch

14h00 – Introduction by **Hans Stielstra**, European Commission

What needs to be done to reach the good status in 2027 to the latest? And what would be the future of the WFD if this status has not been met by 2027?

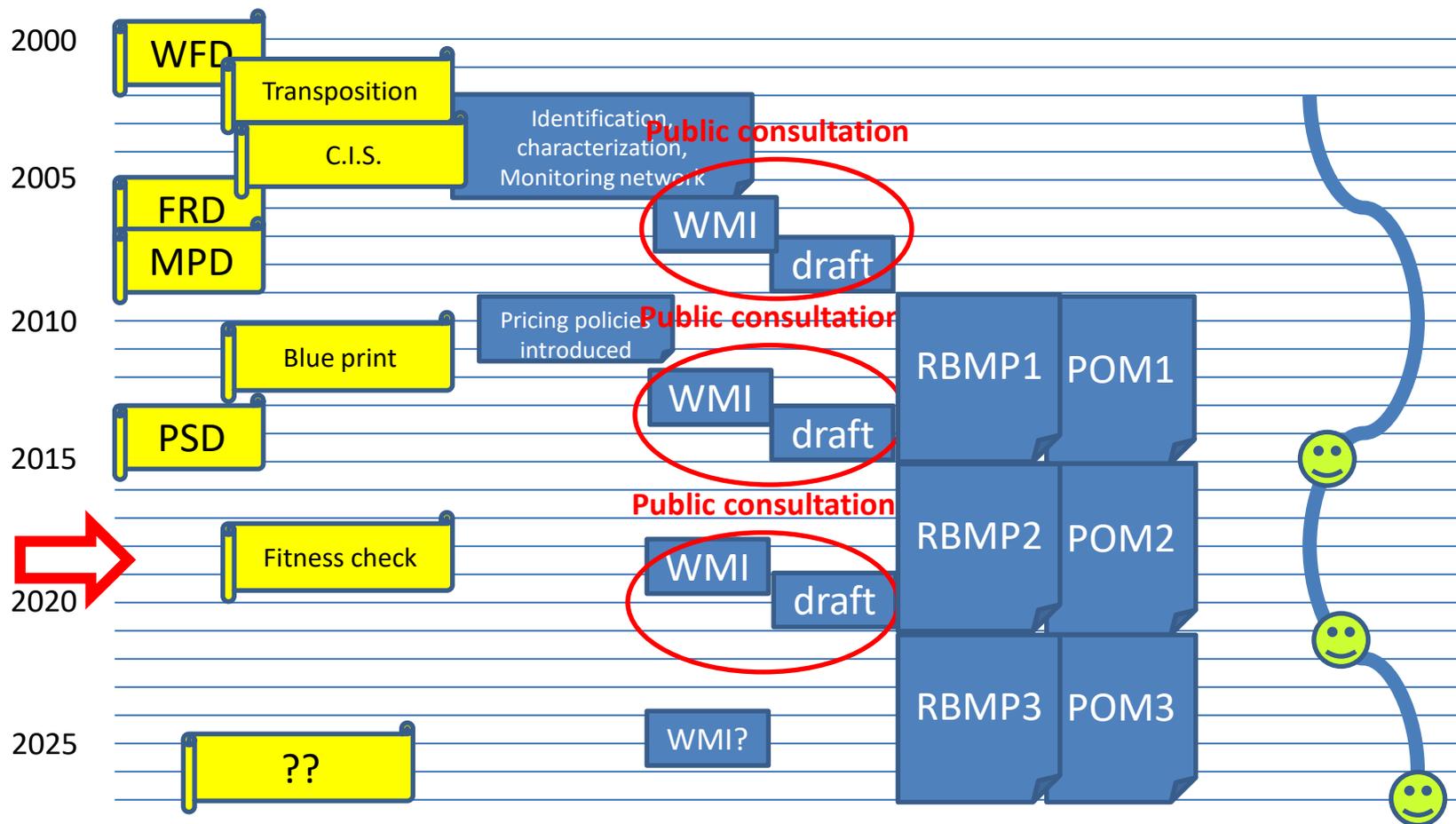
14h30 – *Conclusions and Wrap-up* by **Jan Verheeke**, Chairman



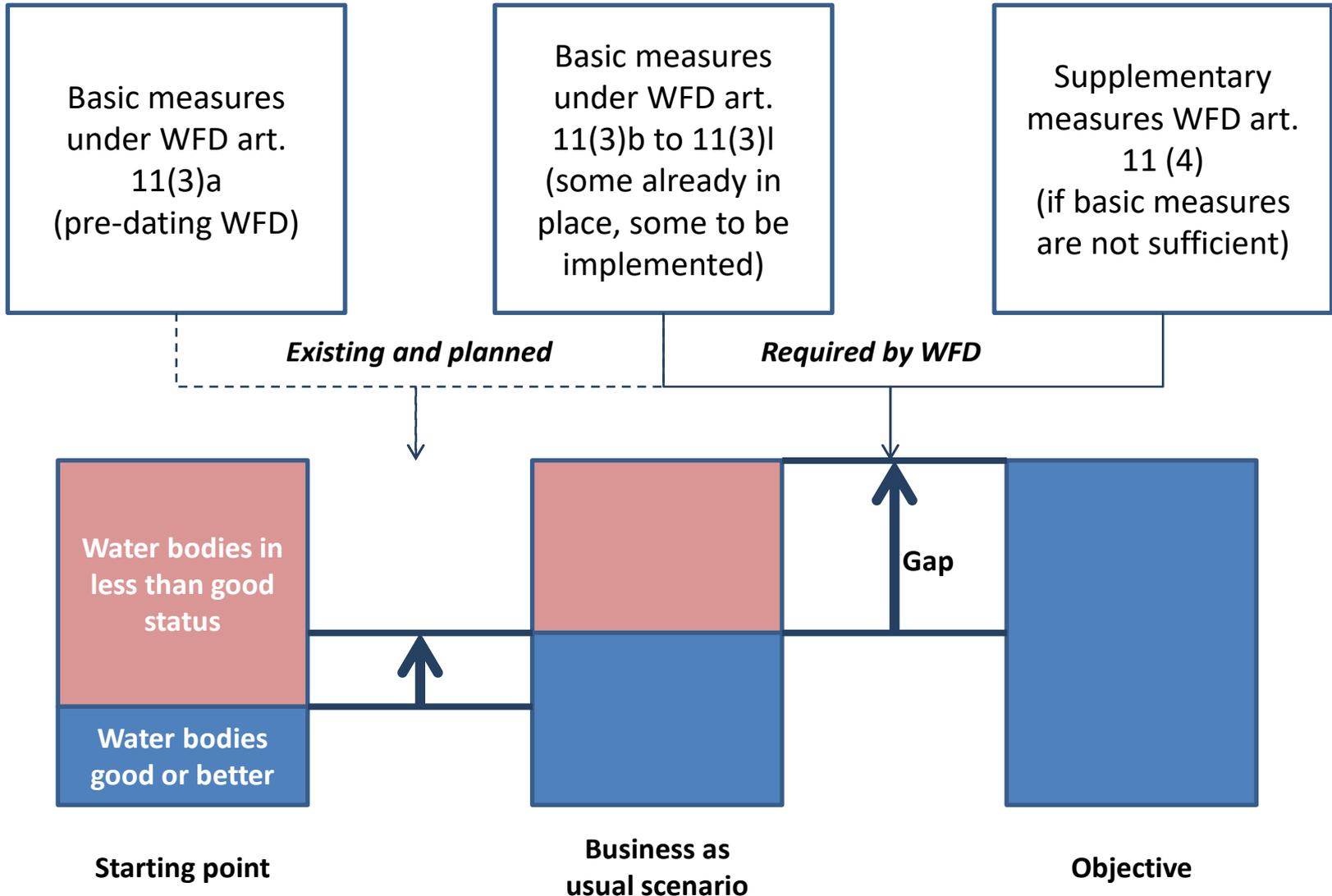
“Working on the Water Framework Directive”

Jan Verheeke,
EEAC-Working Group Fresh Water,
June 26th, 2018

Time table of the Water Framework Directive



The dynamics of the programs of measures



OUTPUT and OUTCOME of the Water Framework Directive

OUTPUT

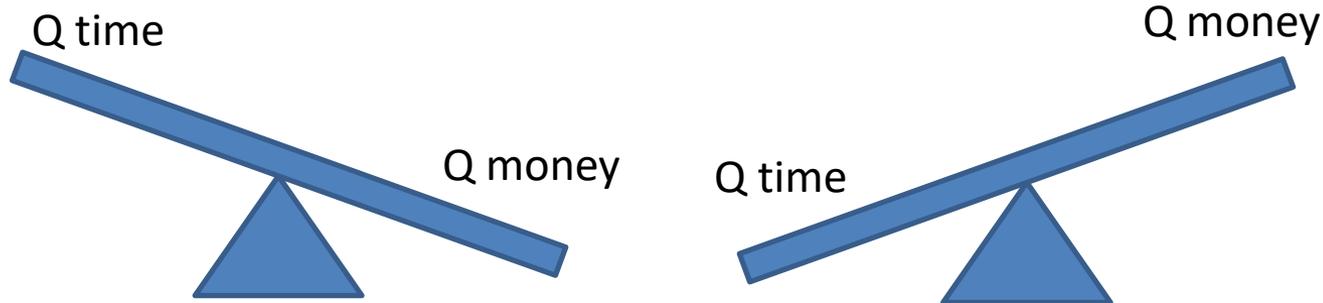
- Common implementation strategy
- River basin districts
- Competent authorities
- River basin management plans
- Programs of measures
- Monitoring programs
- Reporting in both directions

OUTCOME

	Number of member states	Number of water bodies	good status or potential 2009 (%)	good status or potential 2015 (%)	Progress 2009-2015 in %
	21 (*)	82.684	42 %	52 %	10 %
Ecological status of surface waters					
Quantitative status of groundwater	24 (***)	12.022 (5.197)	89 % (85)	96 % (92)	7 % (7)
Chemical status of groundwater	24 (****)	12.022 (5.197)	83 % (68)	89 % (77)	6 % (9)

3 types of explanation ... (1) the money/time conundrum

- The money problem was already there at the level of “basic measures”.
- A fortiori, it would be a problem at the level of “supplementary measures”.
- The time problem is burdened by the bad practices of the past.
- The time problem is worsened by the time-lag that stems from ecological timeframes.
- Communicating problems - incompressibility



3 types of explanation ... (2) no sufficient payment for ESS

- WFD:
 - Base management plans on cost-effectiveness analyses;
 - Implement principle of cost-recovery for water services;
 - Define exemptions in terms of disproportionality of costs.
- in the documents that are presented by the Member States, economic analyses are in most cases still the weakest parts.
- Just in half of the 2nd RBMP's, an incentive and transparent water pricing is provided for.
- Notion “water services” is narrowly interpreted, which limits the potential impact of the WFD.
- An ambitious implementation of the principle of cost recovery and/or pollution pays principle could backfire.

3 types of explanation ... (3) systems thinking is not central

- Systems thinking based on DPSIR, with the “S” being related to the wholistic “good status”.
- Measuring the state of the system is based on a series of indicators, but is meant to provide synthetic knowledge about the “gap” between the “actual” and the “good status”.
- The “one-out, all-out principle” prevents the mistake that a “less than good waterbody” would unduly be classified as in “good status”, but could generate the mistake that a “good water body” is classified as “less than good”.
- This would lead to a focus on symptoms, and (mis-)lead policies and measures away from drivers and pressures.

3 types of explanation ... troubles ... and 3 extra explanations

More money is needed – or more time ...

I cannot prove it.

I cannot predict what will happen.

Governance could be improved

Costing of water services and application PPP to be improved

Risky discussion.

Gap analyses are wanting – basic/supplementary measures could function better

Systems approach needs more emphasis

Promising, but demanding

Stakeholder awareness and involvement to be improved

So, the program of the day is plausible

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