




REPORT on 2nd TOPIC :
**CLIMATE CHANGE –
CHALLENGES FOR WATER
MANAGEMENT**

**EUROPE-INBO 7th CONFERENCE FOR WFD
IMPLEMENTATION**

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How can the WFD take climate change into consideration ?

- The **WFD** doesn't address directly the climate change issues, but the **RBMPs**, through **PoM**, should take it into consideration from today (if it's possible, but **not later than the 2nd planning cycle** !)
- Climate change will probably affect the **achievement of GES**;
- The **RB** planning has to take into consideration both aspects of water management (quantity and quality, simultaneously)  how to integrate within the **RBM Plan** the requirements coming from the **Flood Directive** and the future **Drought Directive** ?

How can the marine directive, the floods directive and the water framework directive best work together ?

- More **information and communication** is needed;
- **Administrative and procedural co-ordination** is important;
- The directives could be brought **together under physical / land planning**;
- **Stronger co-ordination between these 3 Directives** through **CIS works**;
- **Step by step to integrate & implement WFD, Flood Directive and Marine Directive in the RBMPs !**

How to manage international co-operation regarding water and climate change ?

- By putting it in the **agenda of international Conventions** (OSPAR, UN Conventions, ...)
- **Water** should be **placed higher** in the Resolutions of different **International Commissions**, special attention to be paid to the agreements on transboundary waters;
- It's a **political question on EU and World level !**
- No new **international structures / commissions** are needed; existing **should be reinforced !**

How are we to cope with costs of climate adaptation ?

- Firstly **costs of CC adaptation are lower than costs of non-adaptation** (Not taking measures will be more costly than wait !)
- **Long-term consequences of CC have to be taken into account** and their costs should be integrated in cost benefit analysis of all decisions
- **Additional financial resources** are necessary : can we use a percentage of the carbon funds for climate adaptation ?
- Elected officials, politicians have to be convinced of that, since they have a major role to play : coping with costs of climate adaptation relies mostly on political will = this is primarily a **political responsibility** !

What are the main challenges next year ?

In ten years ?

- The **enhancement of the adaptation measures assessment and prioritization**, including of their economical effects is another very important direction.
- Regarding the adaptation and preventive measures, they have to address the **water resource availability** and, in the same time, the **water use**.
- The development of the ***climate change adaptation*** theme in the school programs could be also a **not very expensive**, but a **very efficient long-term measure**.

General conclusions ...

- **The experience and expertise in the field of efficient strategic planning of climate change adaptation and policy implementation is yet limited and should to be developed.**
- **The adaptation to climate change is a real challenge for the national authorities and also at inter-governmental level.**
- **The developing of certain guidelines and associated case studies have to be taken into consideration, and, in this respect, Europe has to take the leadership of this approach (include climate change into CIS works).**