



# Status of “Blueprint Discussion”

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# European Environment Agency SOER 2010:

## EU waters are still under pressure

- Water quality in Europe is improving
- Strong and effective measures needed to address all pollution sources to attain good status by 2015
- Physical modifications of water bodies (hydromorphology) puts many water bodies at risk of not attaining good status by 2015
- Water scarcity putting water bodies at risk of not attaining good status by 2015
- Climate change, land use change and water management practices leading to increases in droughts and water stress and frequency of floods

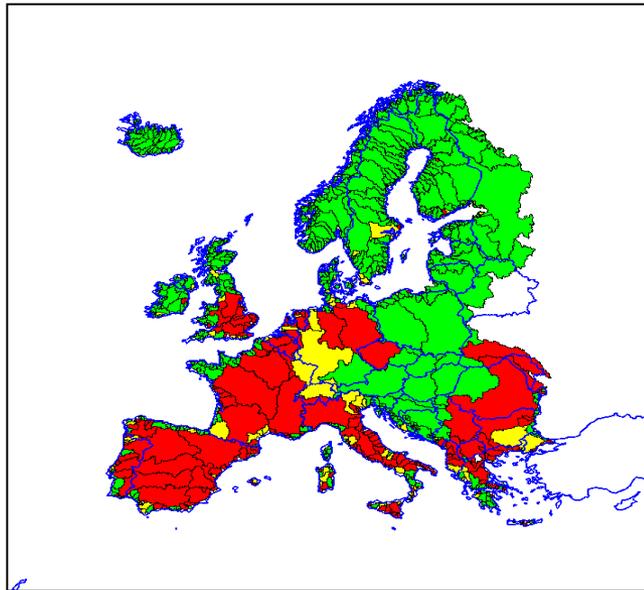
## Why do we need a Blueprint now?

- Global population and economic growth and climate change will put water resources under pressure
- Water-Energy-Food nexus - Water Resources Group projects that BAU will mean a 40% global gap between water demand and supply in 2030
- Maintain policy direction that will be cost-effective in the longer term
- Long lead times for change

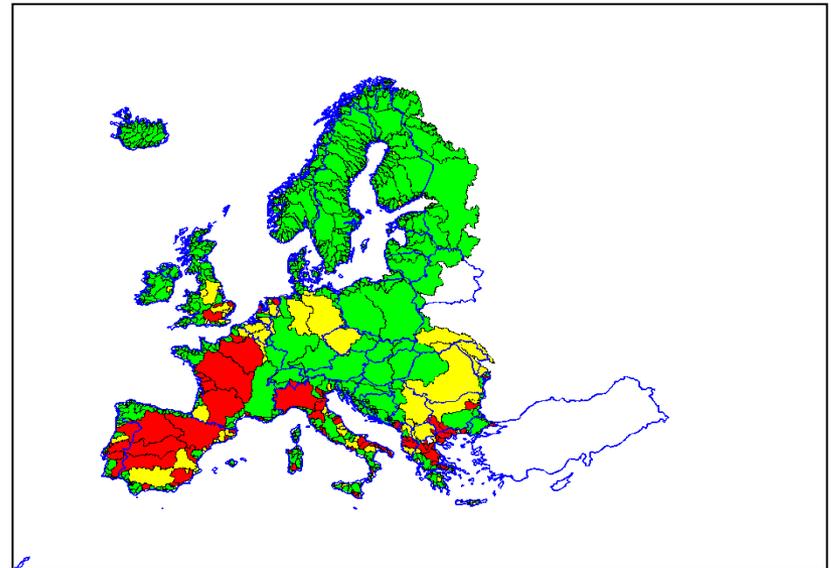
# Example of need for integration (from ClimWatAdapt)

## Summer Water Exploitation Index (excl cooling water)

FP6 SCENES Scenario  
«Economy First» 2050



FP6 SCENES Scenario  
«Sustainability Eventually» 2050



Source: DG Environment,  
ClimWatAdapt database, 2011

-  Low stress (WEI < 20%)
-  Medium stress (20% < WEI < 40%)
-  High stress (WEI > 40%)

# EU Water Policy Commitments

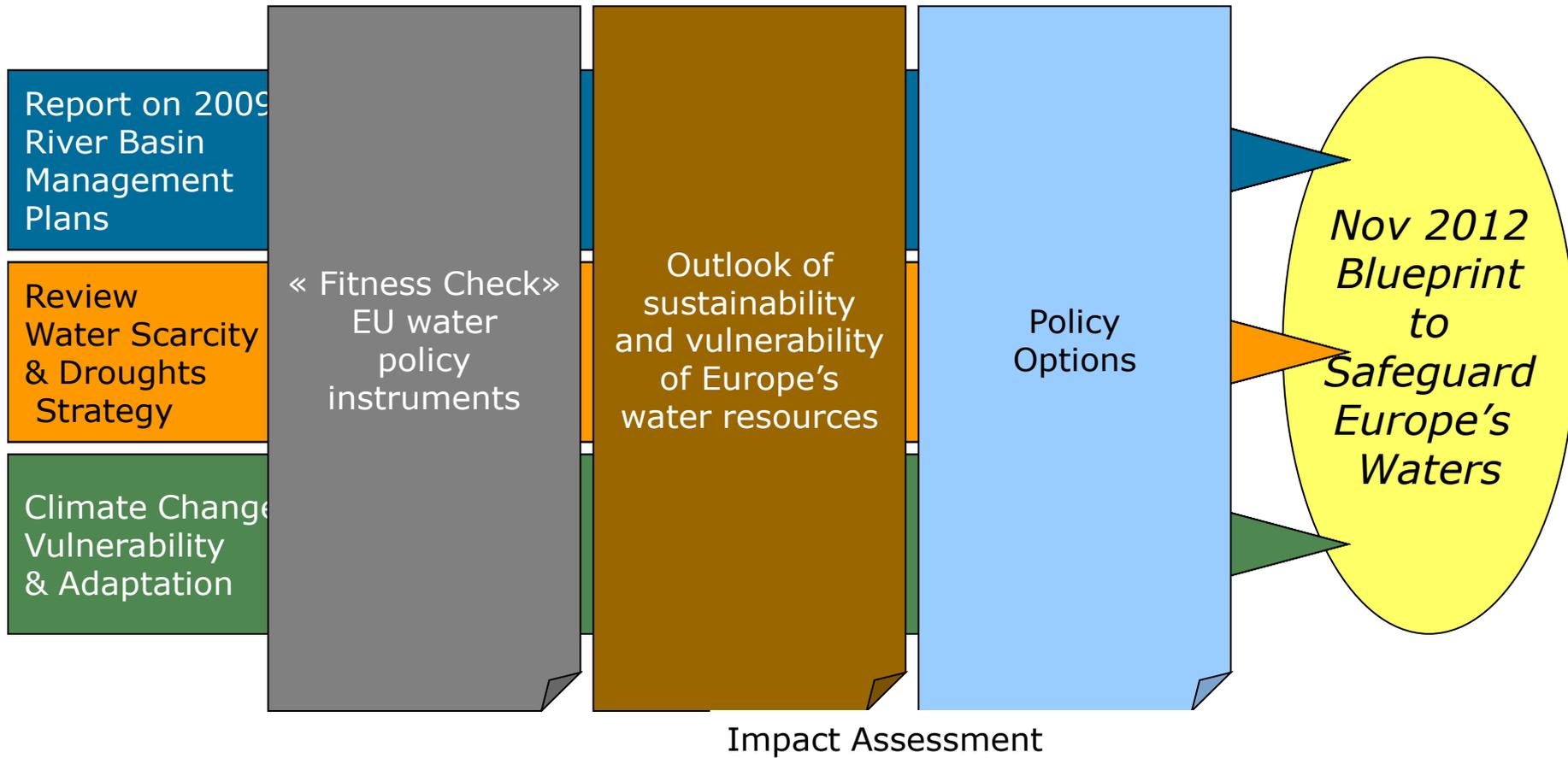
- *POLICY OBJECTIVE : ensure sufficient availability of good quality water for sustainable and equitable water use.*
- The Cornerstone: The Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Daughter Directives
- 2007 Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts and Council Conclusions
- The Floods Directive
- 2009 White Paper on Climate Adaptation and Council Conclusions

## What is the Blueprint?

- *Objective: to ensure sufficient availability of good quality water for sustainable and equitable water use*
- The Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources will present the policy response to the challenges presented in the European Environment Agency's 2012 State of Water Report
- The Blueprint will be the 2020 water milestone on the Resource Efficiency Roadmap. However, the analysis underpinning the Blueprint will in fact cover a longer time span up to 2030-2050.



# Synthesis of policy recommendations building on on-going assessments



## The Blueprint will build on:

- A review of Member States WFD implementation in their 2009 River Basin Management Plans
- A review of policy on Water Scarcity and Droughts
- Assessment of vulnerability of EU water resources to man made pressures, including climate change (input to CC adaptation review in 2013)
- 2012 State of Water Report from the European Environment Agency
- Assessments carried out by the Commission's Joint Research Centre
- Information from stakeholders and the general public
- Supporting studies

## Which "water impacts »?

Ecological Status

Water Availability

Chemical Status

Water Scarcity

Hydromorphology

Flood/Drought Risks

## The Blueprint will be preceded by a “Fitness Check”

- Part of the Commission’s “smart regulation” policy
- Purpose : to identify excessive burdens, overlaps, gaps, inconsistencies and/or obsolete measures which may have appeared over time
- A first screening based on stakeholder information (interviews + questionnaire) published in July 2011 and available on the web. Reveals that stakeholders consider WFD a good example of an integrated approach
- A second phase with further information from stakeholders and a public consultation is ongoing
- Together with an “outlook for water resources” it is part of the “diagnosis” for the Blueprint

## Messages from Fitness Check Stakeholder Consultation

- Water quality is improving as a result of implementation of EU policies
- The Water Framework Directive remains relevant and appropriate and no change in legislation is needed
- BUT improvements of implementation and integration are needed, e.g.
  - Water Framework Directive timetable is challenging
  - Addressing quantitative issues
  - Improved analysis of costs and benefits of measures – link to pricing and payment for ecosystem services
  - Important issues of integration and funding

## The Blueprint will have 3 main objectives:

- First, improving the implementation of current EU water policy by making full use of the opportunities provided by the current framework;
- Second, fostering the integration through a better understanding of the costs and benefits of economic activities and water resources management; and
- When necessary, seeking the completion of the current policy framework

# Timetable for the Blueprint

- The target date for adoption of the Blueprint is mid-November 2012
  
- Most relevant milestones:
  - December 2011- 27 February 2012: Public consultation on Fitness Check
  - 9-10 February 2012: 2nd Stakeholder meeting for the Fitness Check
  - Spring 2012 : Finalisation of Fitness Check
  - March-May 2012: Public consultation on objectives and policy options for the Blueprint
  - March 2012: Discussion of Blueprint options with Member States' Water Directors
  - 21-25 May 2012: Green Week focusing on water
  - 24-25 May 2012: 3rd EU Water Conference
  - June 2012: Discussion of Blueprint options with Member States' Water Directors
  - 7 July 2012: CY presidency: Informal Council
  - November 2012: Publication of the Blueprint
  - 26-27 November 2012: CY presidency High-level conference for the launch of the Blueprint

# Policy Options for Consideration in Blueprint

- Better integration quantitative water management needs in the River Basin Management plans
- Demand Management and Water Efficiency
- Water Availability, Clean Water and Natural water Retention Measures
- Ecosystem Protection
- Toolbox (Economic Instruments, Knowledge Base, Governance, support through Innovation Partnership)

## How can the CEPS Task Force Contribute ?

- Evidence base that sustainable and transparent water management can be a driver for growth and recovery
- Financing of measures to ensure sustainable supply of good quality water be financed in current circumstances?
- Effectiveness of different financial possibilities for particular measures?
- Integration of water efficiency into business models of different sectors?



*Thank you for your attention*

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm)