



RÉSEAU INTERNATIONAL DES ORGANISMES DE BASSIN
INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF BASIN ORGANIZATIONS
RED INTERNACIONAL DES ORGANISMOS DE CUENCA

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Ympäristöministeriö
Miljöministeriet
Ministry of the Environment



Ministry of Agriculture
and Forestry of Finland



Centre for Economic Development,
Transport and the Environment

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Roundtable 3: “WFD review: Towards a practical review of the WFD application: how to deal with exemptions and *one-out all-out* principle”



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Chairs, Rapporteurs and Keynote speaker

Chair: Mr. Juhani Gustafsson, Ministerial adviser, Ministry of the Environment, Waters and Seas, Finland

Co-chair: Mr. Jean-François Donzier, Honorary Secretary General, INBO

Rapporteur: Ms Sini Olin, Coordinator, Finnish Environment Institute

Co-Rapporteur: Ms. Adeline Blard-Zakar, WFD reporting officer, French Biodiversity Agency

Keynote speaker:

Ms. Maria Babukchieva,

State expert, River Basin Management Department Ministry of Environment and Water, Bulgaria

Panelists

- Ms. **Taina Ihaksi**, hydrobiologist, ELY-Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Southeast Finland
- Mr. **Philippe Gouteyron**, Director of planning and assessment, Loire-Brittany Water Agency (AELB), & Mr. Eric Taufflieb, President of the planning committee of the Loire-Brittany Water Agency (CB-LB), France
- Mr. **Ioannis Chronis**, Research associate, Soil and Water Resources Institute, ELGO-DIMITRA, Greece
- Mr. **Bart Fokkens**, Founding member and Associate Expert, European Centre for River Restoration (ECRR)
- Mr. **Pierre-Nicolas Libert**, Attaché for water and environment, Public Service of Wallonia (SPW), Belgium

Background

- 40 % of the surface water bodies are in good or high ecological status or potential and 38% of surface water bodies have achieved good chemical status.
- 74% of groundwater bodies have achieved good chemical status and 89% of groundwater bodies have achieved good quantitative status.

=> Highly unlikely that 100% of Water bodies will be in good status in 2027

Challenges to achievement

Many challenges to achieve good status:

- Monitoring : incomplete and not always adapted to pressures or status
- Assessment: intercalibration, new parameters, lack of data
- Governance : multiple authorities and conflicting objectives
- Measures: funding, design of efficient measures, assessment
- One out all out principal : masks real evolutions and discourage stakeholders
- Time : exemptions

One out All out recommendations

- “one out all out” principle is relevant and good base to preserve aquatic ecosystem
 - Be more flexible and inventive
 - More informative indicators could be used in communication and hearing processes: at parameters level
 - Reporting

Exemptions recommendations

Article 4.4 is the most used exemption and it can be used after 2027 only if the reason or justification is natural conditions

- MS would like to use it anyway because work to improve status won't stop in 2027
- It would also be advisable for the Commission to define the framework for the use and setting the exemption beyond 2027.
- Discussion on the less stringent objectives is needed : should it be used in mass?

Conclusion

- WFD is a useful tool and its ambition should not be reduced
- Review going on: it is an opportunity to improve the lacks