



Communication on water scarcity and droughts

Adopted on 18 July 2007

By European Commission



- ◆ What is the difference between water scarcity and droughts?
- ◆ Why a Communication on water scarcity and droughts?
- ◆ What challenges need to be addressed?
- ◆ What policy options have been identified?
- ◆ What are the next steps?

What is the difference between water scarcity and droughts?



Droughts

Temporary decrease in water availability due – for instance – to rainfall deficiency

→ Natural phenomenon

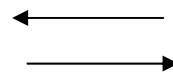
Impacts of droughts
↗↗ in case of water scarcity

Water scarcity

Water demand for human activities exceeds water resources available and the natural recharge

→ Human-driven phenomenon

Impacts of water scarcity
↗↗ in case of drought

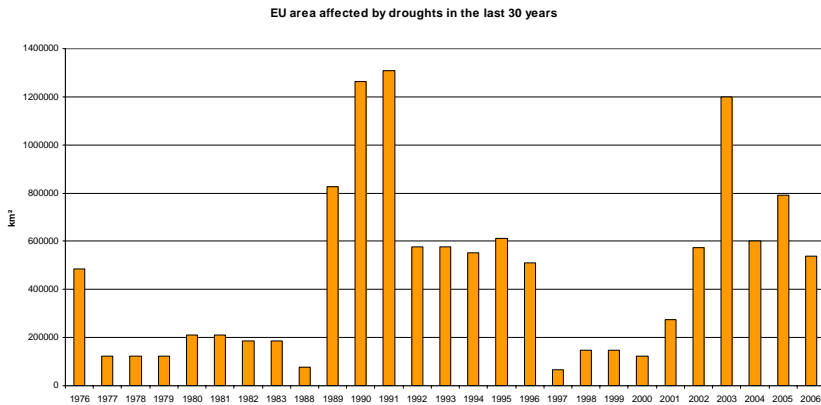


Why a Communication on water scarcity and droughts?



1. Increasing impacts of water scarcity and droughts in past 30 years

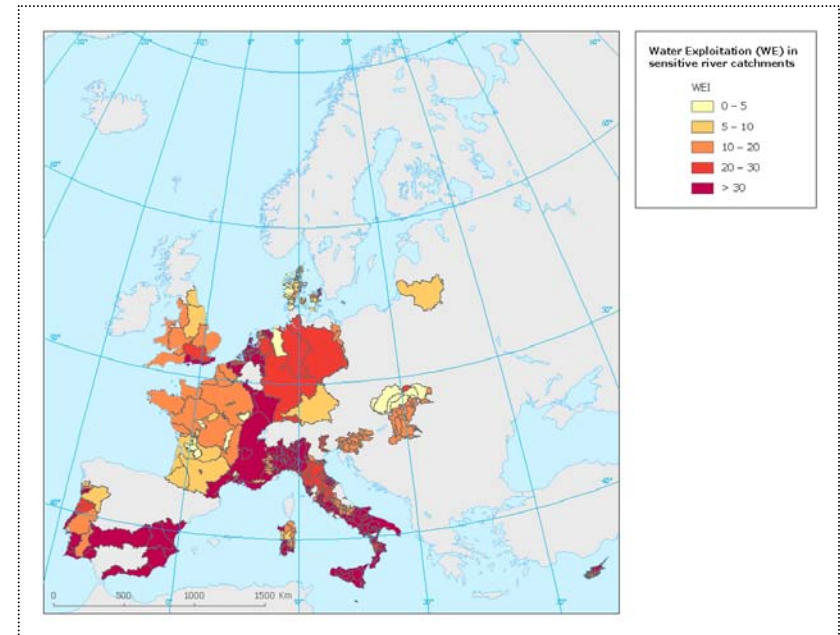
Droughts



Cost to the EU economy:
Min € 100 billion in past 30 years

In 2003:
Min 100 Mio inhab., 1/3 of EU territory
Cost of € 8.7 billion to the EU economy

Water scarcity



33 EU river basins affected so far
Min 100 Mio inhab., 17% of EU territory
Significant extension in past 30 years

Why a Communication on water scarcity and droughts?

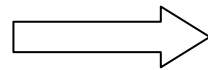


2. Expected impacts of climate change and economic development

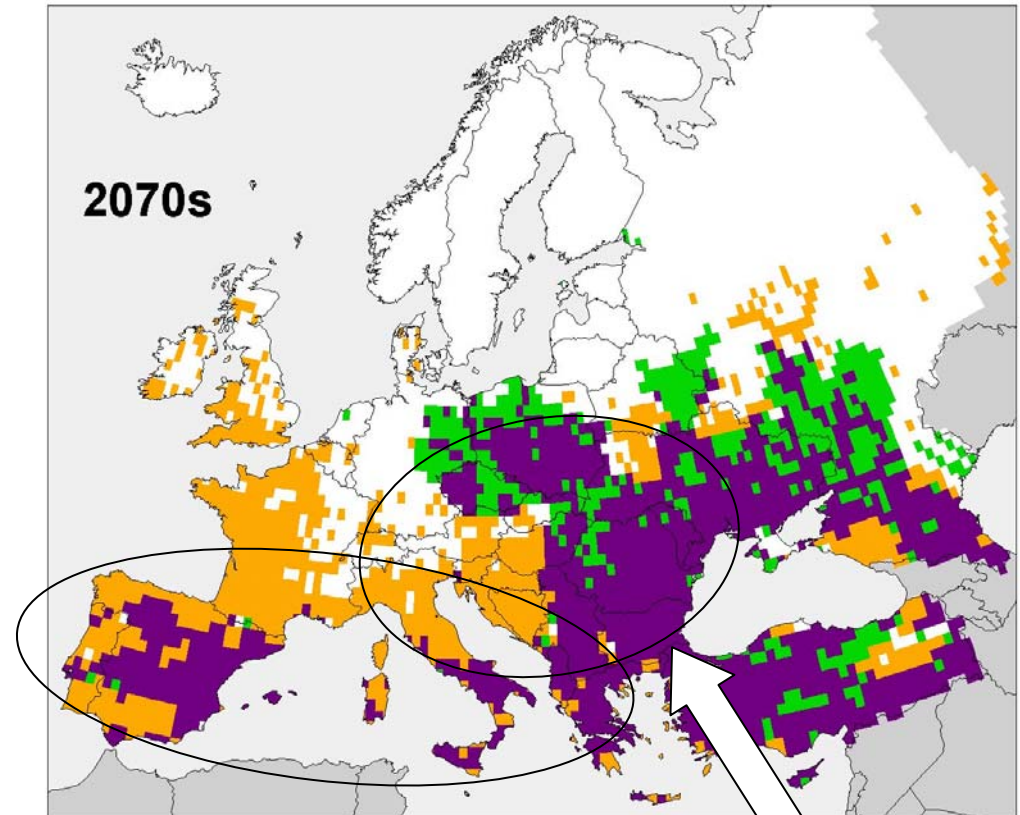
Proportion of severe water stress EU river basins likely to increase from 19% today to 35% by 2070.

Areas affected by droughts will increase.

If t° rises by 2 to 3 $^{\circ}$ C, water scarcity would affect 1.1 to 3.2 billion people



Southern Europe



Eastern Central Europe



What challenges need to be addressed?



- **Water Framework Directive**
- **Water pricing policies**
- **Land-use planning** and **water allocation** between economic sectors
- **Waste of water** and policy-making priorities
- **Integration** of water-related issues into sectoral policies
- **Knowledge**



What policy options have been identified?



✧ Putting the right price tag on water



✧ Allocating water and water-related funding more efficiently



✧ Improving drought risk management



✧ Considering additional water supply infrastructures



✧ Fostering water efficient technologies and practices



✧ Fostering the emergence of a water-saving culture in Europe



✧ Improve knowledge and data collection



Putting the right price tag on water



Full WFD implementation ⇒ Effective **water pricing policies** with adequate incentives and adequate contributions to cost recovery by 2010

‘User pays’ principle needs to become the rule.

Metering: pre-condition to price effectiveness ⇒ Introduce compulsory metering programmes in all water using sectors



Allocating water and water-related funding more efficiently



1. Improving land-use planning

Some EU policies have tended to exacerbate the sensitivity of some river basins

Widespread development of tourism or farming over-abstraction in water stress areas

Need to **adapt all economic activities to the amount of water available locally**

⇒ Consider if CAP and **'Health Check' of 2008** could promote more complete use of full decoupling and increased support for water management in RDP

⇒ Assess linkages between **biofuels** and water availability

⇒ Set up **appropriate regulations** in water scarce river basins in order to restore a sustainable balance

Allocating water and water-related funding more efficiently



2. Financing water efficiency

First challenge ⇒ ensure **efficient use of EU budget** at national level and avoid counterproductive priorities

Refine **Community strategic guidelines for water infrastructures** ⇒ see if enough environmental preconditions before support can be given to new infrastructure

EU and national funds insufficient to duly cover all the issues ⇒ explore how policies could better and further contribute to effective water management

Develop other instruments ⇒ **fiscal incentives** for the promotion of water-efficient devices, practices



Improving drought risk management



WFD has all the necessary flexibility to develop **drought management plans** (DMP)

⇒ EU recommendations by end 2008 and setting up of DMP at national level

Observatory and early warning system on droughts in development at EU level: prototypes and implementing procedures by 2012

Optimise **EU Solidarity Fund** ⇒ examine if progress needed in the definition of criteria and eligible operations to better respond to droughts

Optimise **European Mechanism for Civil Protection** ⇒ identify all possibilities of assistance in case of severe drought



Considering additional water supply infrastructures



Need to respect **water hierarchy**

⇒ Water saving must be the priority

⇒ Additional water supply infrastructures to be considered only when other options exhausted (water savings, water pricing, cost-effective alternatives) – subject to EU legislation

Commission position on **alternative options** (like desalination, waste water re-use) will be based on further assessment – report by end 2008

Need to ensure coherence between objectives of WFD and objectives of Energy Policy for Europe



Fostering water efficient technologies and practices



Water use in the EU could be reduced by 40% through technological improvements.

Approach adopted on energy and efficiency also valid for water

- ⇒ Develop standards and legislation to cover **water-using devices**
- ⇒ Include water efficiency criteria in performance standards for **buildings**
- ⇒ Address the water performance of buildings

Reduce **leakages** in public and private networks ⇒ adopt binding performances with fines in case of excessive leakage



Fostering the emergence of a water-saving culture in Europe



Information, education and training : priority areas for action

⇒ Develop educational programmes, large campaigns of information, advisory services, exchanges of best practices on water quantity issues

Consumers demand more **information** on water performance, sustainability

⇒ Encourage inclusion of water management rules in quality and certification schemes

Labelling can provide information on “water-friendly” products.

⇒ Explore expansion of EU labelling schemes to promote such products



Improve knowledge and data collection



Develop a water scarcity and drought **Information System** across Europe

⇒ information on extent, impacts of water scarcity and drought issues – description on the basis of agreed indicators

Disseminate the results of **research** on water scarcity and drought issues

Enhance and encourage research on technological activities under the 7th Community Research Framework Programme.



Next steps



30 October 2007

Formal meeting of ENV Council and conclusions

- The Commission will present a **follow-up report in 2008**, including deadlines for the implementation of the measures identified in the Communication.
- The Commission will review and further develop the **evolving EU strategy** for water scarcity and droughts **by 2012**.

Next steps



- **At EU level**

- Development of the measures of the Communication:

Further socio-economic and environmental assessments, definition of deadlines, implementing rules - contacts with other DGs

- Specific work on indicators – EEA and MS involvement

- ⇒ Questionnaire to be sent out by end 2007

- ⇒ First list of parameters to be developed by June 2008

- **At national level**

DG ENV will send a note to the Water Directors in coming weeks to have information on progress made in measures identified at national level

Progress in measures identified at EU and national levels will be presented in the follow up report.

Presentation of the **follow up report** at the Council, Parliament mid 2008 and Stakeholder Forum in September 2008 in Zaragoza



Thank you for your attention

For more information on

Communication and Impact Assessment

Interim Report on water scarcity and droughts, June 2007

Report on EU water saving potential, July 2007

Consultation of Stakeholder Forum

See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/quantity/scarcity_en.htm