



# Position Paper on links, complementarity and common interests between LTRAP convention and the Water Framework Directive

For discussion at the 24th Task Force Meeting in  
Budapest

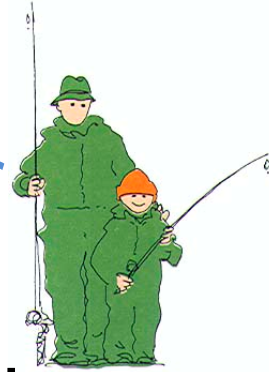
*6.-8. October 2008*

# Why prepare a Position Paper?

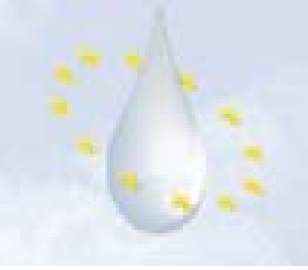


- *The aim is to explore the links, complementarity and common interests between monitoring and assessing water quality under the LTRAP Convention and under the Water Framework Directive (WFD)*
- *Both the Directive and the Convention aim at improving water quality and ecosystem conditions to achieve and maintain a healthy ecosystem structure. Procedures and methods under the legislations are not identical but both serve the same aim, i.e. healthy ecosystem status for surface waters.*
- *To draw attention to mutual benefits for both legislations with regard to data sharing and assessment of ecosystem status. The PP highlights mutual advantages in sharing of data and expertise with regard to assessment of ecological status of water bodies, fully in line with the statement under key objectives for WFD emphasizing that: " Member States will have to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is adopted for the achievement of the objectives of the WFD and for the implementation of programmes of measures for this purpose."*

# Content of the Position Paper



- List highlights of Water Framework Directive (WFD)
- List highlights of ICP Water monitoring programme
- Complementary focus of monitoring under WFD and CLTRAP
- Conclusions - Actions forward



# Water Framework Directive



- Entered into force on 22nd December 2000, to protect waters in Europe with a goal to achieve good ecological status in all waterbodies within 2015.
- Water management in River Basin Districts (RBD's)
- Establish integrated monitoring and management system for all waters within the RBD, to develop a dynamic programme of management measures and to produce a RB Management Plan
- Co-ordinated approach shall be adopted for achievement of objectives and for implementation of programme measures for this purpose
- Encourage active involvement of all interested parties in implementation

# ICP Waters - LRTAP



- Objectives are to assess the degree and geographic extent of
  - acidification (air-pollution) of surface waters,
  - collect information to evaluate dose/response relationships and
  - define long-term trends and variations in aquatic chemistry and biota attributable to air pollution.

# ICP Waters



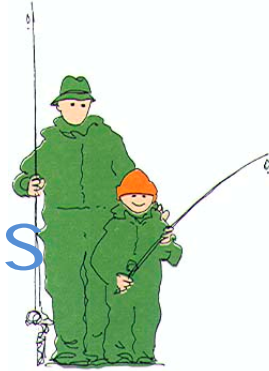
- recognized over the years to be a strong tool for documenting long-term trends in water quality and for predicting future ecosystem changes occurring under different deposition scenarios.
- based on data from national programmes that follow harmonized procedures
- improves quality of biological and chemical methods, through yearly intercomparisons and intercalibrations, essential for the generation of reliable data that document the state of ecosystems as a basis for improved protection and management.

# Complementary focus of monitoring under WFD and under CLTRAP



- WFD with its main unit the RBD has focus set on ecological problems that are locally produced rather than connected to transboundary air pollution.
- For transboundary air pollution, emission abatement strategies are negotiated at CLRTAP.
- WFD focuses on large rivers and lakes and thus does not incorporated monitoring of headwater rivers and lakes
- Headwater ecosystems are often regarded as early warning systems where changes in water quality related to climate and air pollution are observed earlier than in larger systems

# WFD and CLTRAP have both overlapping and complementary aims



- Mutual benefits for coordination of monitoring programmes under both legislations relate to harmonization of monitoring strategies and data sharing
- Monitoring results from the ICP Waters can document
  - the ecological status of water bodies little affected by direct human activity
  - document how long-term data might supplement the present findings for WFD status of water bodies
  - improve comparability across geographical borders.

# Conclusions - Actions forward



- Initiatives should be taken on national level to approach RB management/authorities and draw their attention to data availability on small water bodies in headwater ecosystems
- WFD is to cover all human impacts on water bodies. Effects from long-range transported components can easily be overlooked as countermeasures for this type of pollutants will not be effective within the RBD's as the source is outside of the RBD
- WFD includes targets also for hazardous substances and heavy metals. Records of these parameters opens for further research and cooperation as general behaviour, and impact of climate on these components are of central interest to many researchers and public bodies

# Conclusions - Actions forward



- Contact between WFD and ICP Waters monitoring sites will support continuation of the national monitoring programmes.
- Headwater lakes will in the long run cover the “background level” for larger water bodies downstream and give a timely supplement to understand and follow long-term changes. These bodies will eventually also be indicators for climate change that are to be included in the revision of the present WFD guidelines