

# A Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Water Resources

Peter Gammeltoft, DG Environment

Water and trade workshop  
Amsterdam 25./26.11.2010



## The Blueprint will:

- Assess the implementation and achievements of policies and measures in place to ensure the protection and availability of EU water resources
- Look forward at the evolving vulnerability of the water environment to assess the sufficiency of existing measures and tools, and evaluate potential new instruments to ensure a sustainable use of good quality water in the EU in the long term.
- The Blueprint will synthesise policy recommendations drawing from the evaluation exercise, and will be accompanied by a number of reports and new initiatives, including of a legislative nature if appropriate.

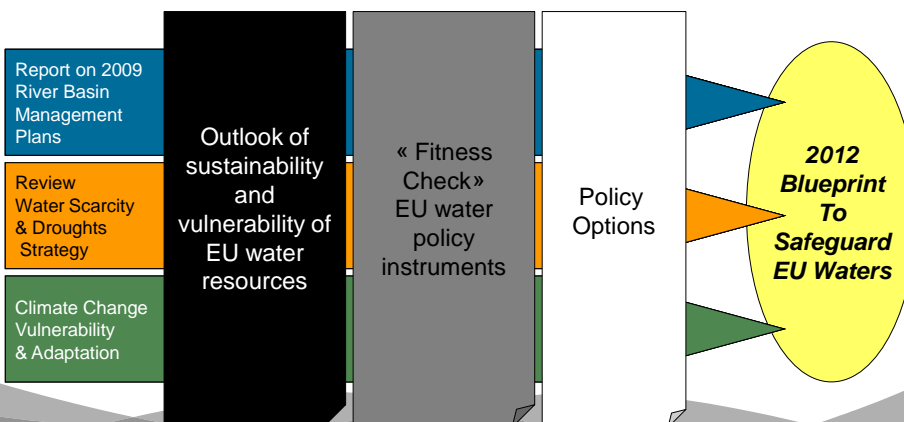


## Link with on-going processes

- **The Blueprint will include the 3 reviews foreseen for 2012**
  - Assessment of river basin management plans
  - Review of the Strategy for Water Scarcity and Droughts
  - Review of the vulnerability of water and environmental resources to climate impacts and man-made pressures.

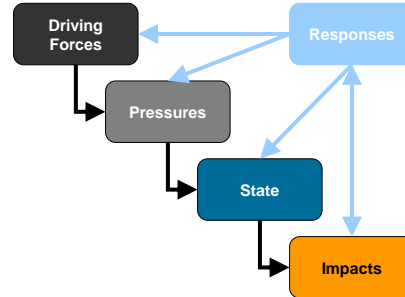


## Impact Assessment



## Outlook of sustainability and vulnerability of EU water resources

- Both medium term (policy implementation horizon) and longer term (robust decision making under uncertainty)
- Drivers: mixing demographic, socio-economic developments and climate change.
- Pressures: cross-sectoral perspective, focusing on production & consumption processes
- State: identifying thresholds, recovery time, etc.
- Impacts: strong emphasis on ecosystem services



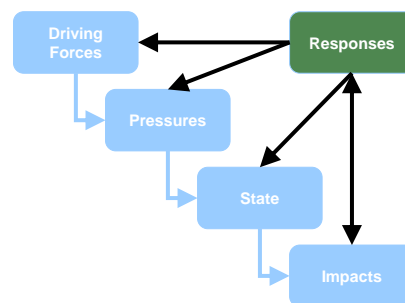
### Tools:

- Water balances & ecosystem accounts
- Integrated Modelling (hydrology, land-use, resource efficiency)
- Knowledge mapping
- Mix of Global, EU and local focus



## Policy options

- Mainstreamed into Europe 2020 priorities
- Options to be developed i.a. in the following areas:
  - ➔ Demand management in water stressed areas
  - ➔ Improved water efficiency
  - ➔ Spatial measures
- Cover the broad scope of potential policy options:
  - ➔ Regulation
  - ➔ Economic instruments (Pricing, Cap&trade, etc.)
  - ➔ Labelling
  - ➔ Soft-coordination mechanisms
  - ➔ Support Tools



## Water footprint / virtual water

### ■ As a tool for the outlook

- Need to take on board water quality /hydromorphology aspects and resource thresholds
- Footprint as element of vulnerability (at sector, product, region level)

### ■ As a policy instrument

- Specific assessment to be performed for agriculture and food products
- Labelling to be assessed together with other policy instruments (regulation, pricing, cap&trade). Can complement those instruments to improve their effectiveness
- Impact on trade needs to be included in the impact assessment



## Research needs

### ■ More detailed information on water embedded in processes and products

- exposure to external trade

### ■ Better understanding of links between FP/VW and sustainability of water resources

- Full water cycle: role of evapotranspiration, analysis at river basin level + regional/global linkages
- water quality, hydromorphology concerns, sustainability thresholds

### ■ Advanced quantitative modelling of impacts of policy instruments

- Pricing, trading schemes, labelling
- Support to implementation (eg legal, sociologic aspects)

### ■ Link with other resources & footprinting processes

- Carbon/energy, land, raw materials

