

Major conclusions and statements stemming from the presentation on Project ClimateWater and WFD, as related to the future of European waters

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Serious pollution incidents due to extreme weather events are causing enormous health, property and ecological hazards, and the relevant policies and their so far planned modifications are unable to help the planning-development of the respective adaptation strategies. This refers to entire Europe both to the wetter becoming and the drying regions. They stem mostly from diffuse or non-point sources, while WFD and other water policies are practically neglecting non-point source pollution.

Flooding related catastrophes seem to exceed all formerly estimated extents, with special regards to small catchments. Structural and non-structural flood control and defence strategies and policies seem to be unable to handle this situation. A special issue of this is the international river basins, where the existing many agreements and conventions do not grant the equitable use of the quality and quantity of waters. Thus brand new international legislation is needed with enforceable rules on the use and pollution of waters..

Drought is seriously handicapping more than half of Europe even in places which are prone to flooding and flush-runoff pollution.

The most serious problem is that the major planning tools available for dealing with climate-change, the River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) are either wrong or no tools are used at all. Presently performed RBMPs of over European basins use either no planning tools (only some estimation) for assessing the potential outcome of strategies proposed, or in some cases the situation is worse as 100+ parameter-coefficient conceptual watershed models are used, which cannot be neither calibrated nor verified and thus cannot form the basis of actual planning;

Thus the future of European waters depends on whether the newly reformed policies can or cannot handle the above problems, and whether planning tools, and relevant international legislation are also reformed. This would need much more measurement and monitoring than what is being made presently and will demand much higher financial inputs for the continuing updating, calibration and verification work that would be needed to keep all tools in working order and perform scientifically acceptable plans and forecasts.