



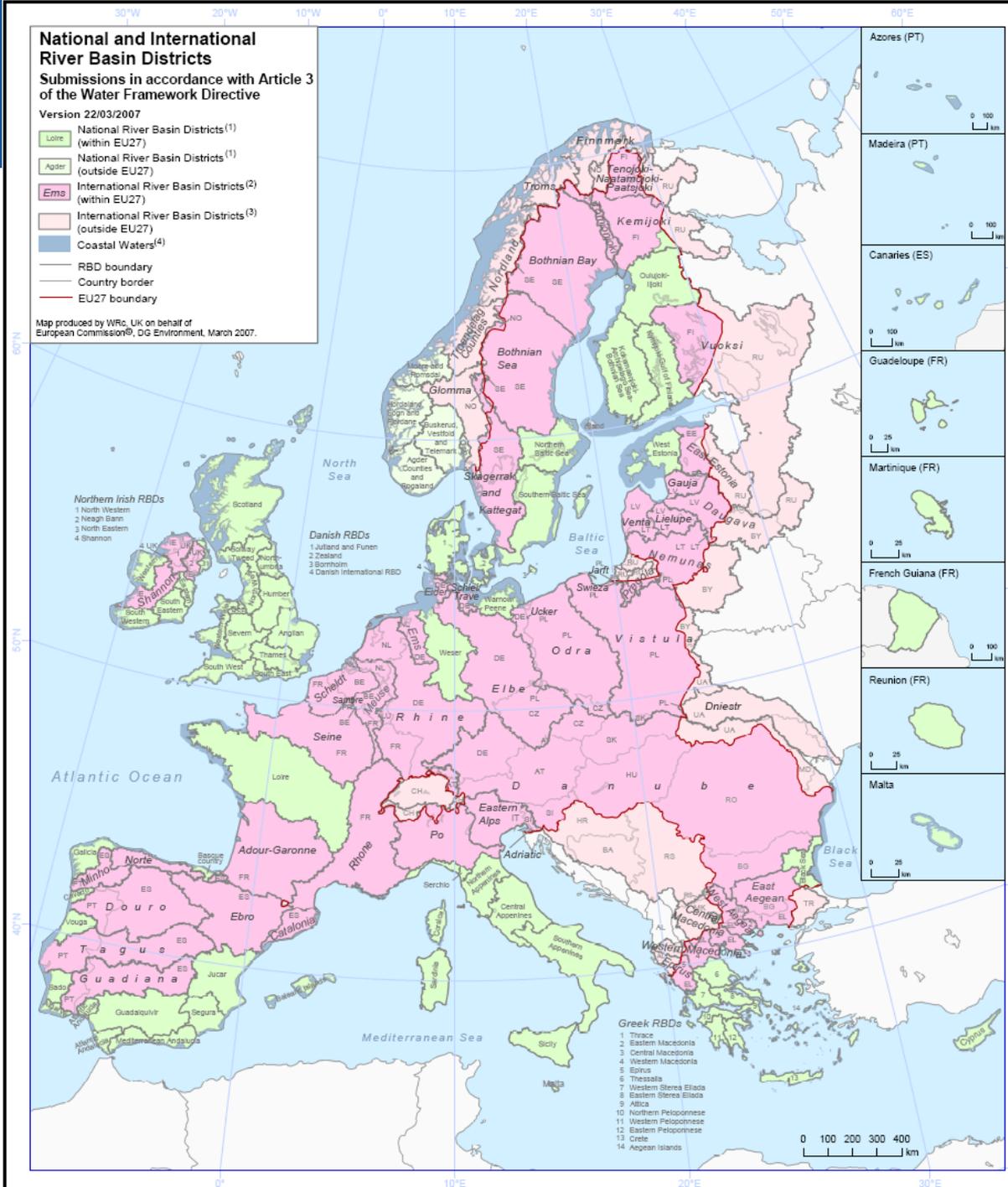
A Blueprint to safeguard Europe's waters

*5th meeting of the Task Force on Water and Climate
27 April 2012 – Geneva – United Nations*

*Nicolas ROUYER – European Commission
DG Environment – Unit D1 – Protection of Water Resources*

Why do we have a EU legislation on water?

→ most of the EU river basins are transboundary



Water Framework Directive principles

- **Protecting all water bodies**, including transitional & coastal waters
- Achievement of **good status** in all water bodies + **no deterioration**
- **Integrated planning process at river basin scale**
- **Comprehensive assessment of pressures, impacts and status**, including the ecological perspective
- **Economic instruments** including **water pricing**
- **Integration** of water policy with other policies (agriculture, transport, energy...)
- **Public participation**



To sum-up: what is

water good status?



Means meeting all environmental quality standards for chemicals set at EU level:

- 33 priority substances Directive 2008/105/EC
 - 8 other substances previously regulated 76/464/EEC codified 2006/11/EC
- LIST UNDER REVISION COM(2011)876

Means an expression of the quality of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems including: biological, hydromorphological and chemical elements

• Good surface water status

 – Good **chemical** status + good **ecological** status

• Good groundwater status

 – Good **chemical** status + good **quantitative** status 

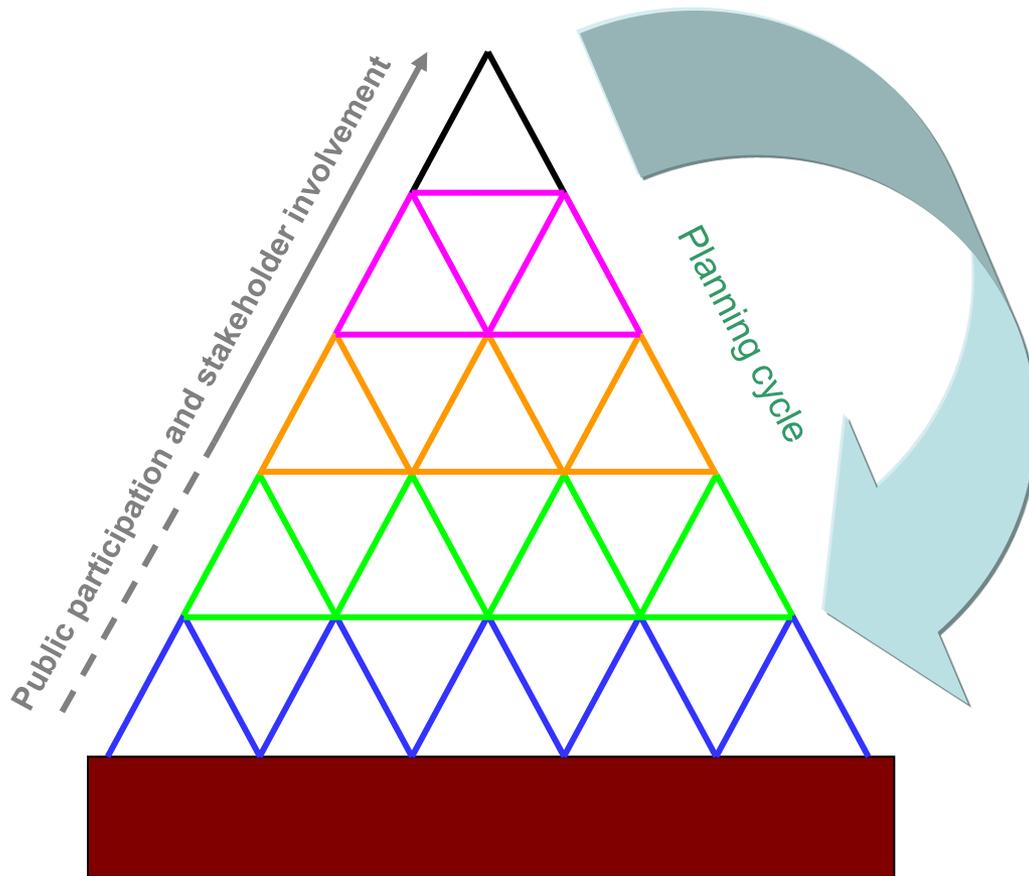
Means meeting all standards for chemicals:

- quality standards set at EU level: pesticides and nitrates
- threshold values: standards set at national level

Means ensuring a long-term balance between abstraction and recharge, protecting as well associated surface waters and ecosystems.



Planning process of the WFD



Implementation of measures

Programme of measures

Setting objectives

Monitoring and assessment

Characterisation, pressure and
impact and economic analysis

**Transposition, RBD delineation,
competent authorities, administrative
set-up, coordination arrangements**

WFD Timetable: first cycle

Transposition into national law	Dec 2003
Administrative arrangements	Dec 2003
Environmental analysis:	
- Analysis of characteristics	
- Assessment of human impacts	
Economic analysis of water use	Dec 2004
Monitoring programmes	Dec 2006
Public Participation starts	Dec 2006
Significant water management issues	Dec 2007
Draft river basin management plans	Dec 2008
<i>Final river basin management plans</i>	<i>Dec 2009</i>
<i>Measures implemented at the latest</i>	<i>Dec 2012</i>
Good status of water bodies	Dec 2015

Why a “Blueprint”?

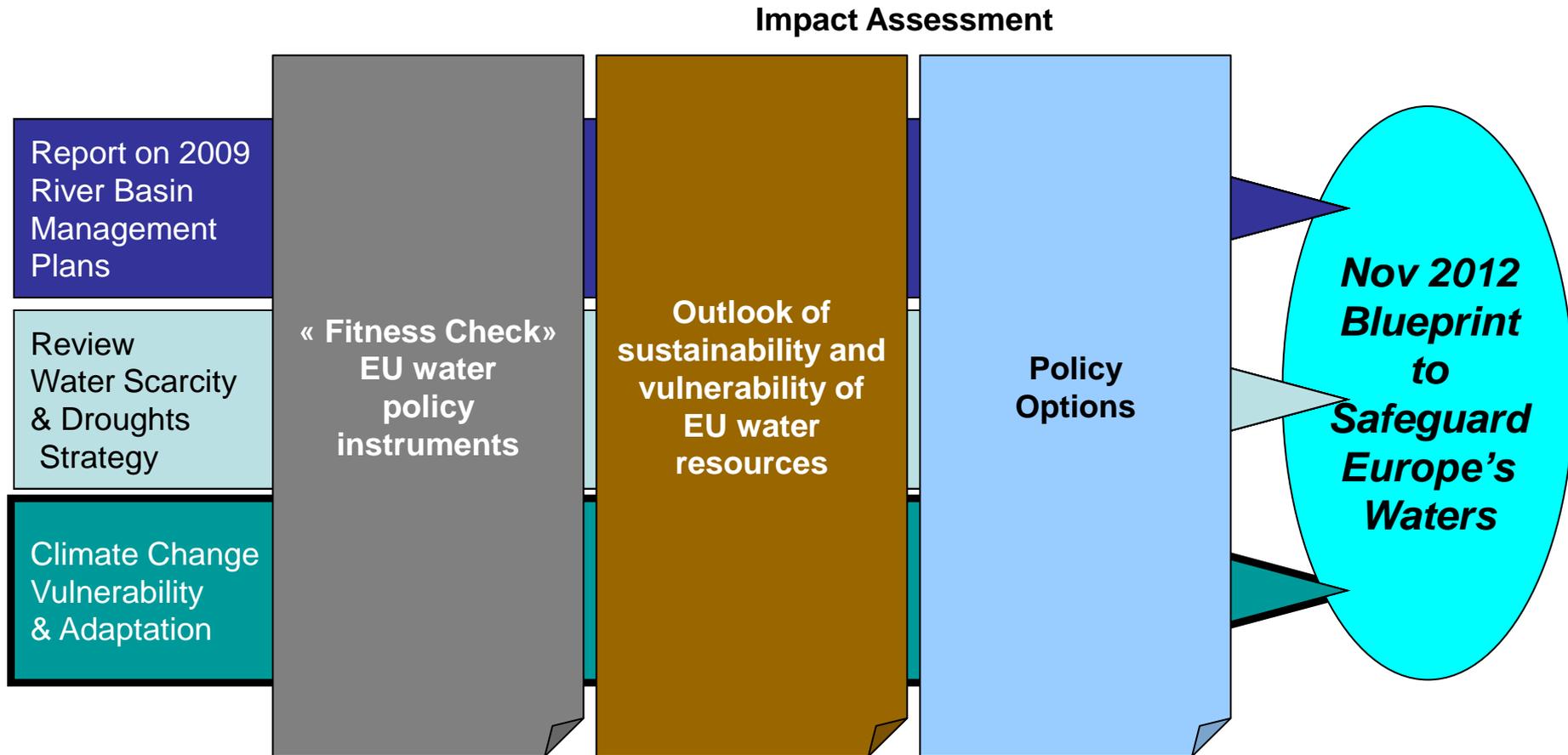
- *The main objective of the EU water policy is to ensure sufficient availability of good quality water for sustainable and equitable water use*
- *But challenges have been identified in the EEA State of Water report*
- ➔ *The “Blueprint to Safeguard Europe's Waters” will present the policy response to the challenges*



What the Blueprint will be about?

- *Improving the **implementation** of current EU water policy*
- *Fostering the **integration** of water and other policies*
- *When necessary, seeking the **completion** of the current policy framework*

Main steps towards the Blueprint:





Next steps for the Blueprint:

- *Policy options were published in March*
- *until 7 June 2012: public consultation on the Blueprint policy options:*
http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/blueprint_en.htm
- *24-25 May 2012: discussion on the Blueprint policy options at the 3rd EU Water Conference*
- *November 2012: publication of the Blueprint*

Policy Options (1): tools

- *Targets for efficient water resources allocation including the basic needs for nature (environmental flows) and sectoral allocation*
- *Drought management instruments*
- *Support better management of water resources in 3rd countries*

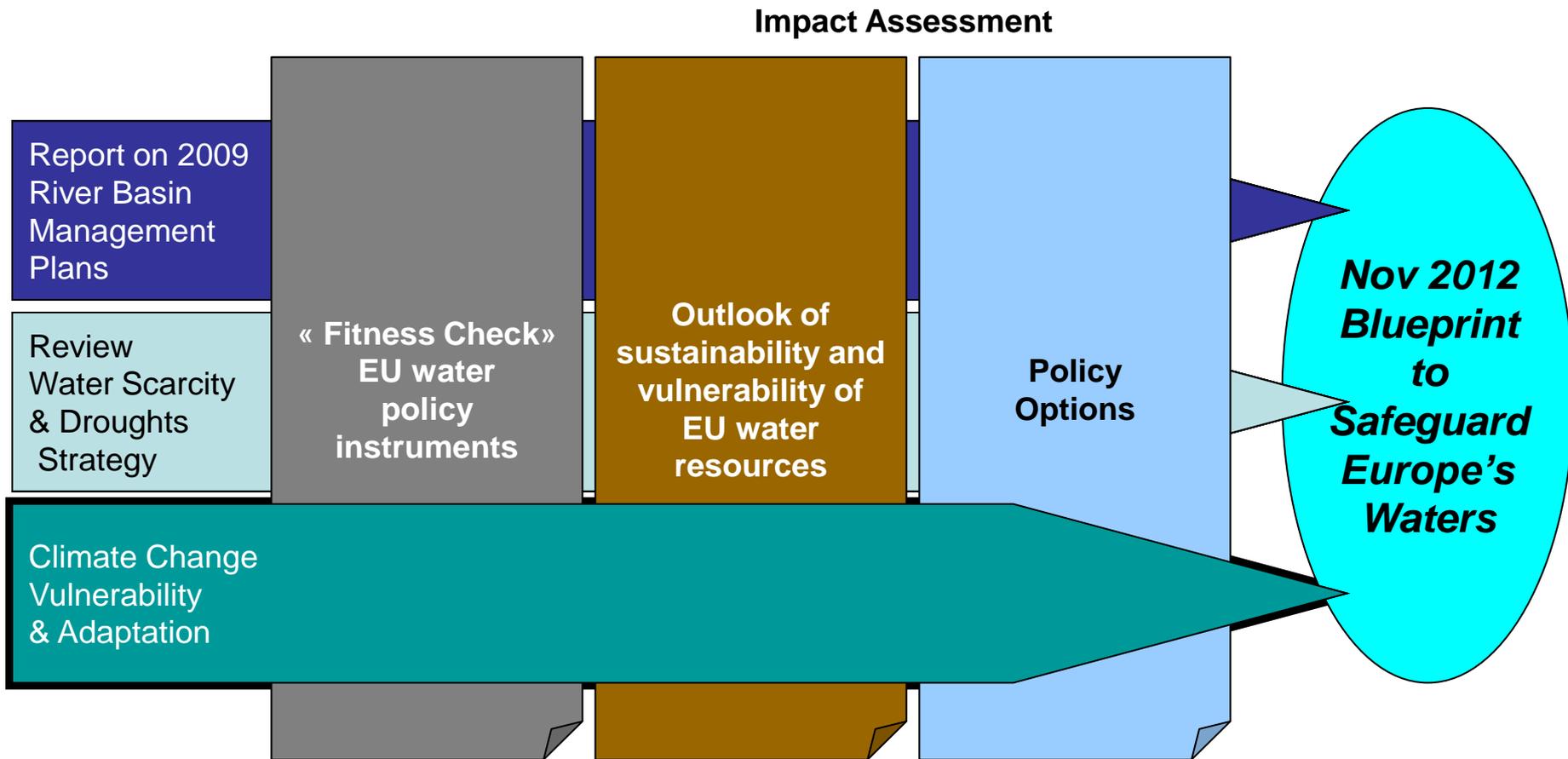
Policy Options (2): unlocking measures

- *Support to Land-use measures (Natural water Retention)*
- *Improve water efficiency in building and water using appliances*
- *Address leakage in water infrastructure*
- *EU standards for waste water re-use*
- *Tackle metering / illegal abstraction*
- *Water pricing levels and structure to provide sufficient incentives to increase water efficiency*
- *Costs and benefits of inaction and of water related measures to be properly understood and quantified*

Policy Options (3): Governance and Knowledge base

- *Improve coordination in river basin shared between different administrative entities within Member States, between Member States and with third countries*
- *Improve knowledge provision and accessibility*

Water and adaptation to climate change:



Water & adaptation to climate change

- *Continuous work through the WFD-CIS **Expert Group***
- ***Specific guidance on water & adaptation to climate change***
- *Thorough assessment of drivers of vulnerability and potential adaptation measures at EU level in the **ClimWatAdapt** project*
- ***Assessment of the RBMP on climate change issue***
- *On-going in-depth assessment of **effectiveness of specific measures** (natural water retention, water efficiency)*
- ***Based on policy options, policy proposals** in the **Blueprint**, to serve for Climate Change Adaptation Strategy*



WFD-CIS Expert Group on Water & Climate Change

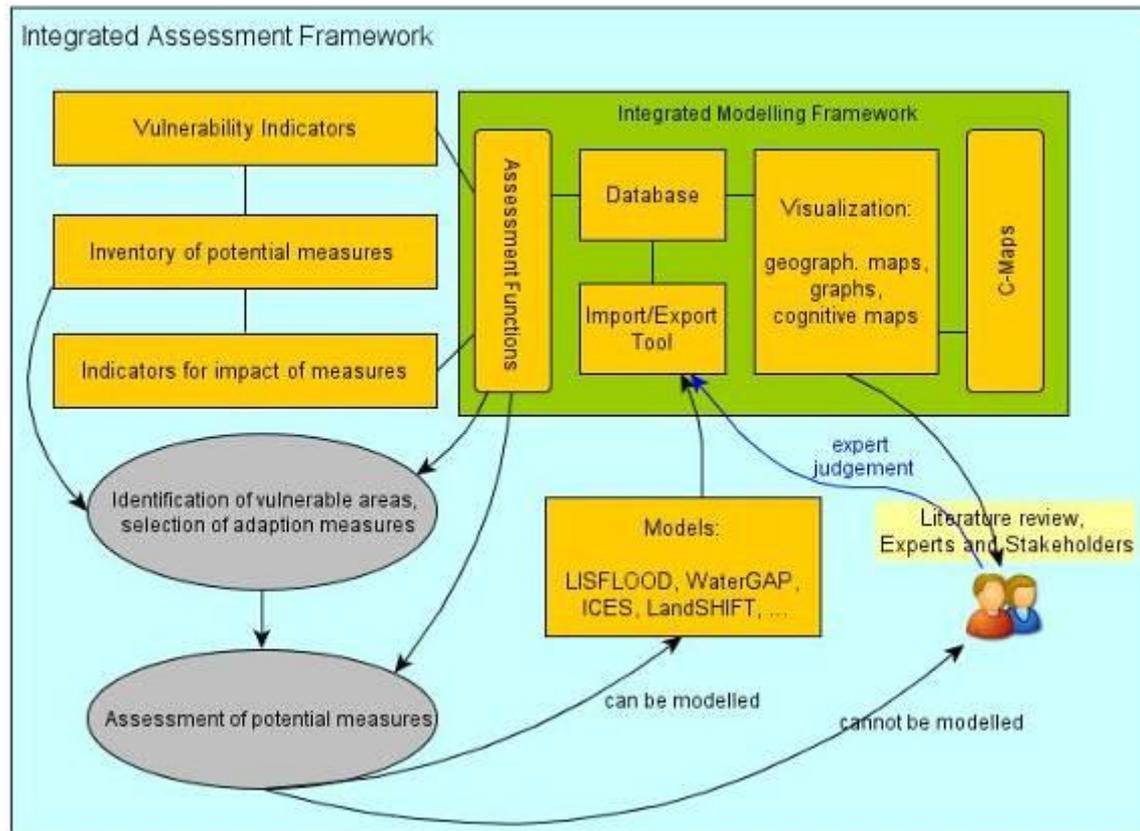
- *Next meeting on 21 May 2012*
- *Agenda:*
 - **Update guidance**
 - **State of play studies**
 - **Contribution to EU Adaptation Strategy**



Guidance Document on RBM in a Changing Climate

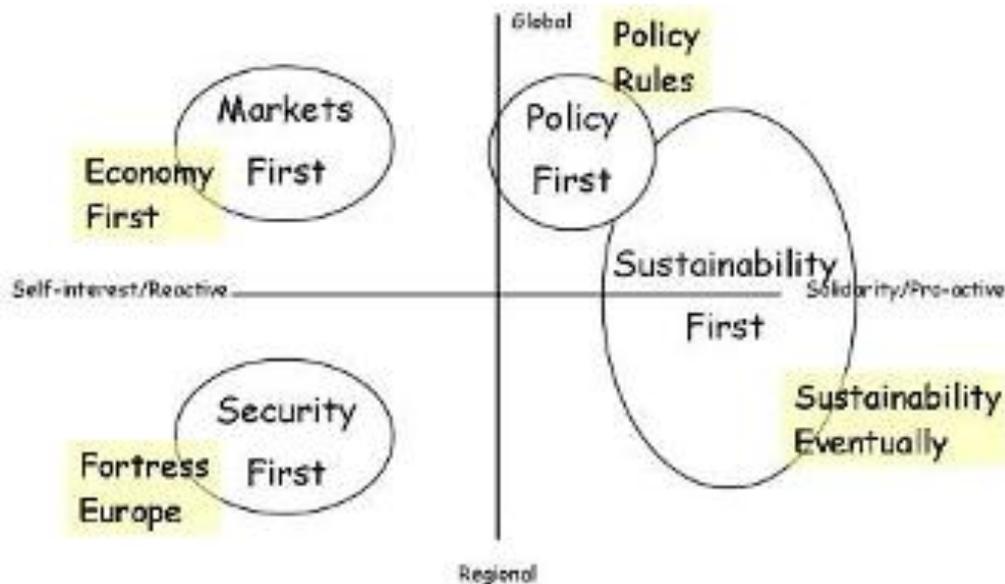
- *endorsed by EU Water Directors in November 2009*
- *illustrates ways in which climate change impacts can be integrated into preparations for the second and third River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) cycles.*
- *is meant to help Member States to clearly demonstrate as a minimum how climate change projections have been considered in the assessment of pressures and impacts, monitoring programmes and appraisal of measures.*
- *is focusing on WFD implementation but also includes principles for incorporating climate change into flood and drought management.*

Water and Adaptation Modelling ClimWatAdapt project (2010-2011)

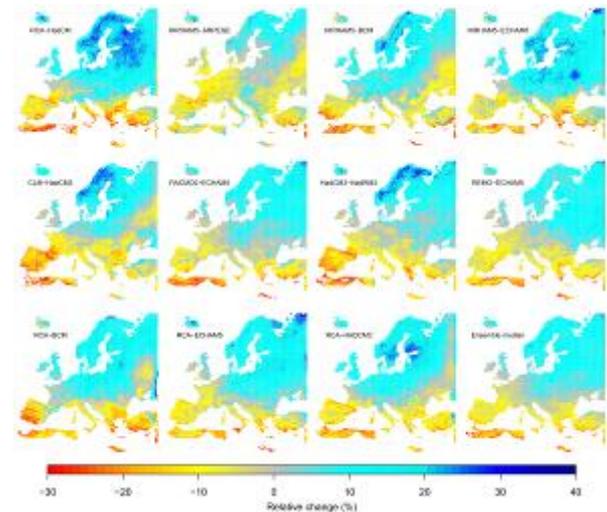


ClimWatAdapt Scenarios

- *Socio-economic and land use: SCENES.*
 - **Main drivers (socio-economic, electricity production, technological changes, ...)**

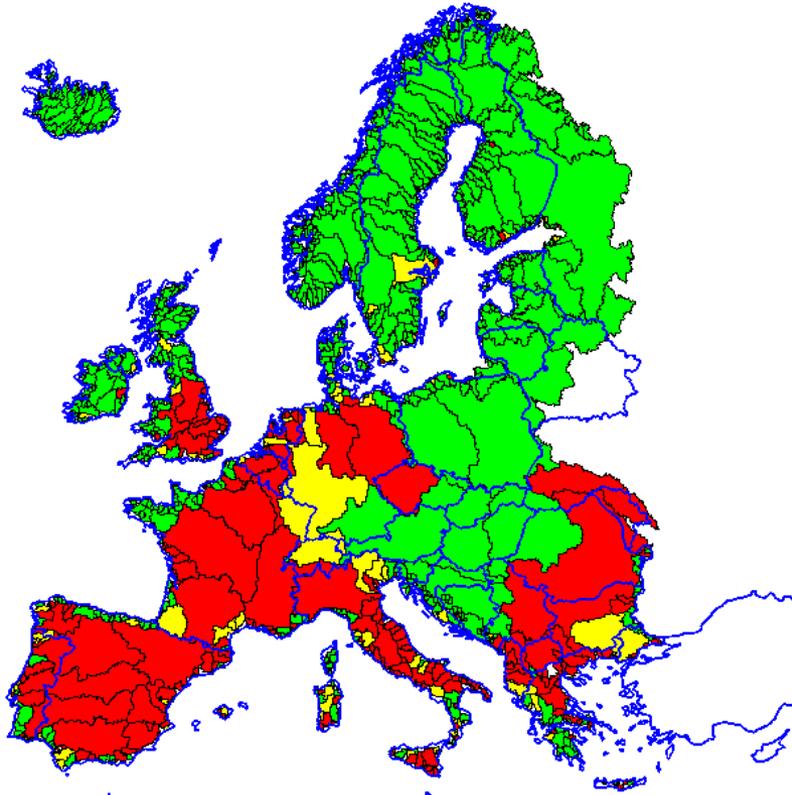


- *Climate: ENSEMBLES*
 - **Long-term annual average bias-corrected temperature and precipitation data (baseline, 2025s and 2050s), 11 GCM-RCM combinations, SRES A1B scenario**

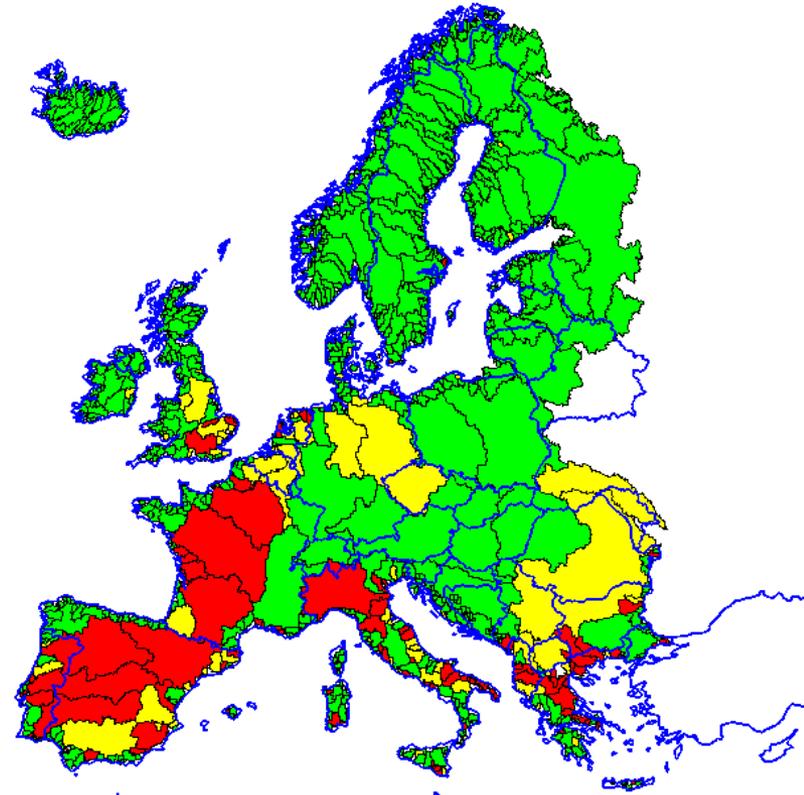


Change in annual precipitation between 2050s and baseline

FP6 SCENES Scenario «Economy First» 2050



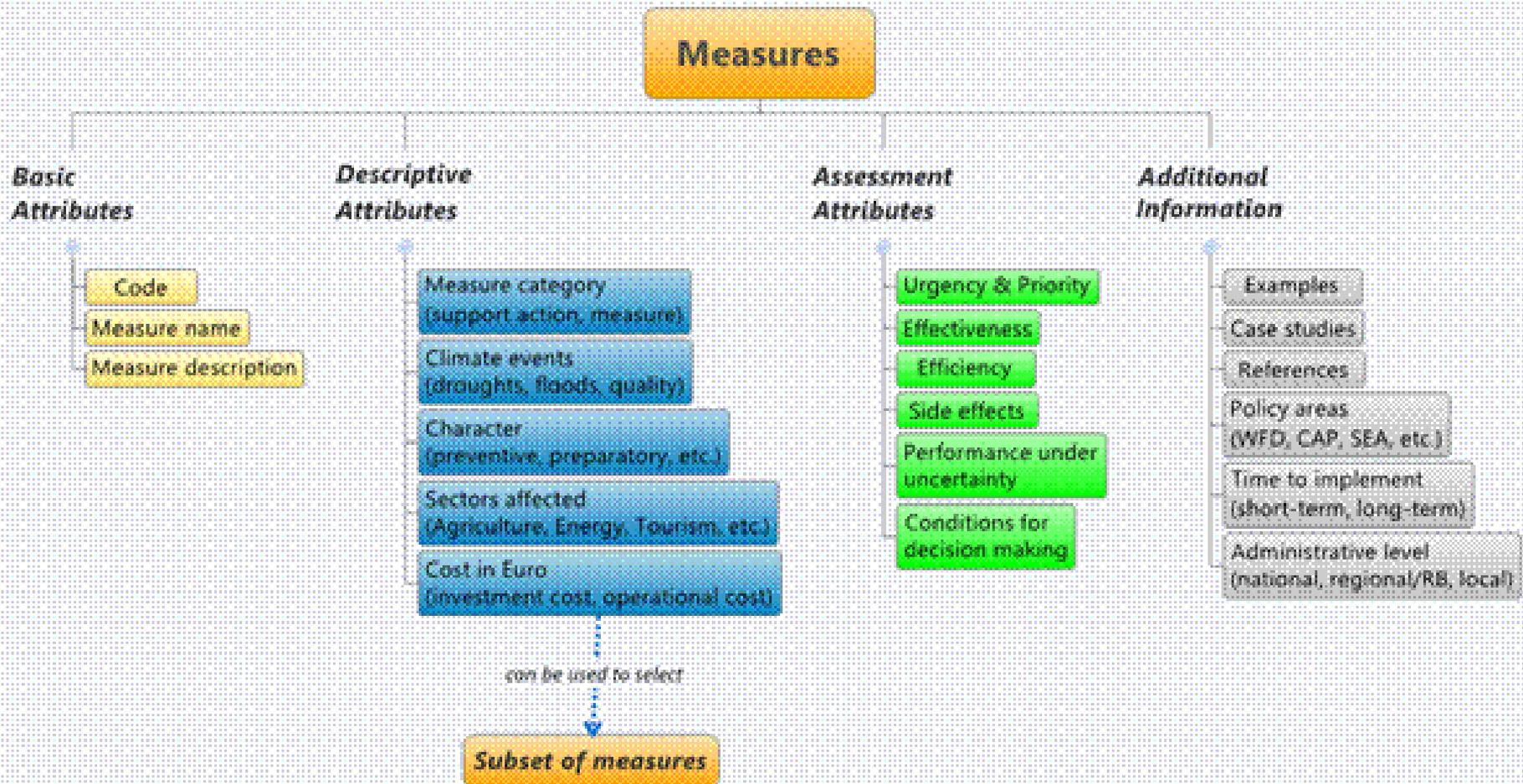
FP6 SCENES Scenario «Sustainability Eventually» 2050



Source: DG Environment,
ClimWatAdapt database, 2011

-  Low stress (WEI < 20%)
-  Medium stress (20% < WEI < 40%)
-  High stress (WEI > 40%)

Adaptation measures inventory



ClimWatAdapt policy recommendations:

- Knowledge Gap
 - ***Additional research: focus uncertainty and adaptive capacity.***
 - ***Integration into CLIMATE-ADAPT and WISE***
- Mainstreaming
 - ***Ecosystem-based approach (with priority to multi-objectives measures)***
 - ***integrated into EU policies and fundings (CAP, Energy, Transport)***
 - ***Climate proofing measures in 2nd RBMPs***
 - ***Start assessment of long-term structural measures***
 - ***transboundary water management adaptation strategies.***



RBMP assessment & climate change

- *RBMPs contain significant information on climate change*
- *Climate change issues have not influenced much the RBMP actions yet*
- *There is an indication in some plans that climate check of measures has already been done or preparations for it are started for the next RBMP cycles*

Modelling of the cost-effectiveness of measures:

- *Water efficiency (agriculture, buildings, leakages)*
- *Natural water retention measures*

Example: natural water retention measures

- *aim to safeguard and enhance the water storage potential of ecosystems and aquifers, by restoring natural features and characteristics of water courses*
- *use nature to regulate the flow and transport of water so as to smooth peaks and moderate extreme events*
- *are a component of a multi-functional Green Infrastructure*

restoration of floodplains, natural flood defence measures, sustainable urban drainage systems, natural water retention in upstream parts of river basins by reforestation, wetland restoration or soil management, etc.



Natural water retention measures: assessment of costs, benefits & climate proofing

- *Provide estimates of the costs and benefits, and potential for increasing resilience to climate change of natural water retention measures*
- *Analyse the potential of EU policy and funding instruments to promote no- regret measures*

Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water

Impact Assessment

