

Implementation of the WFD article 3 on close cooperation among riparian countries in river basin planning and management

Gheorghe Constantin
Director

Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests

ECRAN Multi-beneficiary Workshop, Sarajevo, 11-13 July 2016

Requirements of the WFD at the national level

- Identify the individual river basins lying within their national territory and, for the purposes of this Directive, shall assign them to individual river basin districts.
- Identification of the appropriate competent authority, for the application of the rules of this Directive within each river basin district lying within their territory
- The environmental objectives established under Article 4, and in particular all programmes of measures are coordinated for the whole of the river basin district.

Requirements of the WFD at the international level

- A river basin covering the territory of more than one Member State is assigned to an international river basin district.
- Ensure the appropriate administrative arrangements, including the identification of the appropriate competent authority, for the application of the rules of this Directive within the portion of any international river basin district lying within its territory
- For international river basin districts the Member States concerned shall together ensure this coordination and may, for this purpose, use existing structures stemming from international agreements
- Where a river basin district extends beyond the territory of the Community, the Member State or Member States concerned shall endeavor to establish appropriate coordination with the relevant non-Member States, with the aim of achieving the objectives of this Directive throughout the river basin district

Appropriate administrative arrangements

- WFD provides flexibility for each Member State to decide how to best set up these administrative arrangements according to their own reality and needs
- Will not necessarily entail a change in the distribution of competences among administrations within Member States
- Will not require the creation of new river basin district administrative bodies
- Is requiring to create the adequate co-ordination mechanisms in order to effectively deliver the WFD obligations

Establishment of the River Basin Districts

- The designation of **river basin districts** has mostly taken place on the basis of hydrogeographic boundaries
- The **grouping of smaller river basins** into a river basin district has been applied in a meaningful way in those countries where there are many small catchments
- The assignment of **groundwaters** to a river basin districts has been done in most Member States by applying the same boundaries to groundwater as for the surface waters in the RBDs
- Similar approach have been made with the attribution of **coastal water** strips to appropriate RBDs.

River Basin Districts in Europe

- 110 river basin districts (RBDs) has been established across the EU.
- 40 river basin districts are international and there is a total of 170 national or national parts of international river basin districts
- The international river basin districts cover more than 60% of the territory of the EU. There is a need of international coordination aspects one of the most significant and important issue and challenge for the WFD implementation
- The size of the RBDs varies considerably from very small ones below 1,000 km² to the largest one, the Danube with over 800,000 km².
- The average size of national parts of national RBDs is about 25,000 km² while the average size of national part of international RBDs is about 50,000 km²

International River Basin Districts

- Most Member States have identified their **international river basin districts** and established some form of international cooperation
- The most advanced arrangements for international river basins exist for the Danube, the Elbe, the Meuse, the Odra, the Rhine and the Scheldt.
- For these transboundary rivers, multilateral agreements are in place and international commissions are coordinating the national efforts in the WFD implementation for the entire basin.
- For other **transboundary river basins between Member States**, there are often bilateral agreements in place which work to a larger or lesser extent and which only partially are now re-directed towards the WFD implementation

Cooperation with Non-EU Members

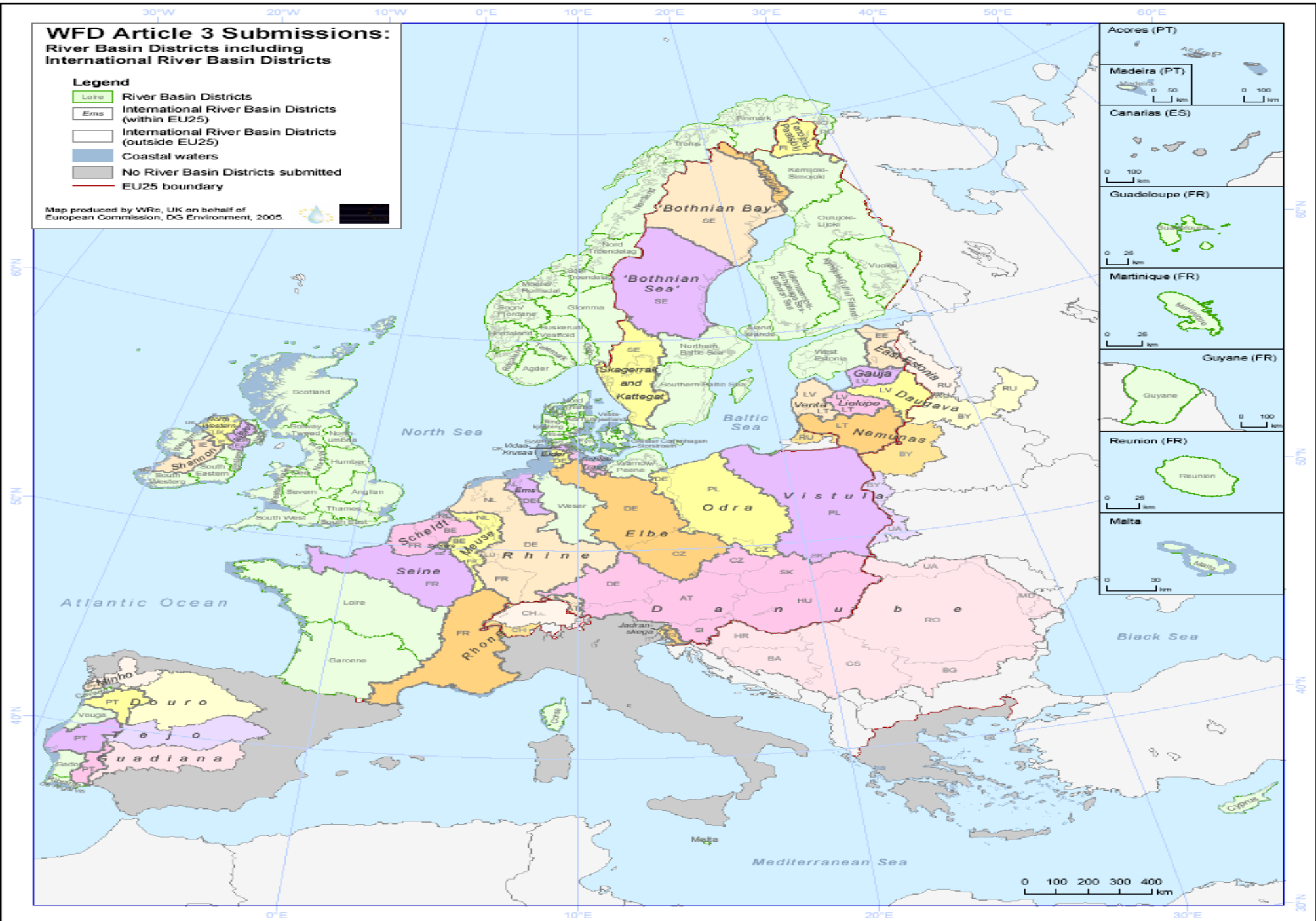
- For river **basins that Member States share with non-EU Member States**, there are some significant open issues to resolve
- The most positive example is the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) in which all non-EU Member States are politically committed to implement the WFD in the Danube within the timelines foreseen in the directive.
- More difficult is the cooperation between the Baltic EU Member States (EE, LV, LT and PL) and Russia, Belarus and Ukraine

WFD Article 3 Submissions: River Basin Districts including International River Basin Districts

Legend

- River Basin Districts
- International River Basin Districts (within EU25)
- International River Basin Districts (outside EU25)
- Coastal waters
- No River Basin Districts submitted
- EU25 boundary

Map produced by WRe, UK on behalf of
European Commission, DG Environment, 2005.



Establishment of competent authorities

- The set up of competent authorities (CA) vary across the EU. There is all combinations , including:
 - one competent authority for one RBD,
 - one competent authority for several RBDs and
 - several competent authorities for one RBD.
- The reasons for the different approaches are the differences in the national legal and institutional framework regarding water management, in using existing administrative structures and in the distribution of competences of water management within the governments
- No Member State has designated an international body as competent authority for the implementation of the Water Framework Directive

Danube River Basin

From the Black Forest

to the Black Sea



ICPDR

Contracting Parties



Germany



Austria



Czech Republic



Slovakia



Hungary



Slovenia



Croatia



Bosnia & Herzegovina



Serbia



Montenegro



Romania



Bulgaria



Rep. of Moldova



Ukraine



European Union

ICPDR

International Commission
for the Protection of the Danube River

- ICPDR established on the **Danube River Protection Convention** (signed 1994) – legal frame for cooperation
- Mandate to ensure conservation, improvement and rational use of surface waters and ground water
- Reduce inputs of nutrients and hazardous substances
- Control floods and ice hazards
- Reduce pollution loads to the Black Sea

Since 2000 the ICPDR is the coordinating body for implementing the **EU Water Framework Directive** in the Danube River Basin



Thank you for attention !