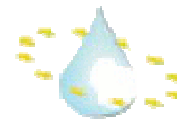


WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE



CIS CD ROM - 2005 VERSION

Water Framework Directive

Overview of the WFD

Directive 2000/60/EC 'establishing a framework for community action in the field of water policy', or the Water Framework Directive (WFD), provides the European Community framework for the protection of inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater. The fundamental aim of the WFD is to promote the sustainable use of water, while progressively reducing or eliminating pollutants for the long-term protection and enhancement of the aquatic environment.

The WFD provides the legislative basis for the maintenance and recovery of water quality to achieve good surface and groundwater status. Some of the elements of the WFD's new and innovative approach to managing Europe's water resources include:

- Ambitious objectives and clear deadlines;
- The introduction of River Basin Management on a Europe wide scale;
- The requirement for cross-border co-operation in water management between countries and all involved parties;
- Pollution prevention and control on the basis of the so called 'combined approach';
- Greater public participation in water management;
- Economic analysis of water use.

The WFD was published and entered into force in December 2000. As of September 2005, Member States should have transposed the Directive into national law and identified River Basin Districts (RBDs) and Competent Authorities (by December 2003) and carried out a characterisation process for each of the RBDs (by December 2004).

The text of the Water Framework Directive and other related legislation can be found in the [Legislation](#) section.

Sources of additional information

Additional information relating to the WFD can be found on the [EUROPA](#) website, and in an easy to read brochure and leaflet (currently only available in

11 languages). To view the leaflet or brochure in your language, click on the relevant link below.

Leaflets: [DA](#) [DE](#) [EN](#) [ES](#) [FI](#) [FR](#) [EL](#) [IT](#) [NL](#) [PT](#) [SV](#)

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