

EU acquis communautaire and the Protocol on Water and Health - synergies and added value

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Relationship between the EU acquis communautaire and the Protocol
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Mihály Kádár M.D., National Institute of
Environmental Health, Budapest, Hungary



European Union and Protocol

- Strong commitment in environmental health
- Autonomous state-parties on voluntary basis
- Legally binding obligations
- Fairly overlapping membership
 - 15 Parties-MS and 10 Signatories-MS
- Similar ambitions in environmental health
- Identical basic principles

European Union vs Protocol

POLICY FEATURE	EUROPEAN UNION	PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH
Statutory provisions	Supra-national	National only
Enforcement measures	Judicial	Consultative
Vertical policy tools	Statutory provisions & extensive infrastructure	Target setting and review
Horizontal policy tools	Environmental Health Action Plan	Principal feature of PWH
Development-assistance	Impressive funding internally EUWI externally	Project Facilitation Mechanism
Driving force	Huge	Modest
Flexibility	Modest	Fair

Cases for synergy

- **Drinking Water**

Principle: access for all to wholesome DW

European sectoral agenda: quality standards, point of compliance, monitoring requirements, remedial actions and restrictions of use, derogations...and funding

Protocol is a competent instrument to address also:

equitable access; sustainability; fixing vulnerable resources; water safety planning; WRD surv; authentic measures of water quality improvement; small scale systems; information and involvement of the public.

Battery of Protocol tools and approaches: target setting and revision; prioritisation; intersectoral coordination; bringing policymakers and the public up to date, etc.

More cases for synergy

- **Sanitation** – UWWTD + small communities; level of service; equitable access
- **Surface waters** – Bathing water directive and WFD river basin management agenda + WRD surveillance, prioritisation through target setting
- **Groundwaters** – WFD Integrated water resources management + vulnerable drinking water and thermal water resources agenda, informed funding allocation
- **Environmental impacts of projects** – EIA and SEA directives + special (e.g. public health) considerations
- **Environmental data** – reporting obligations + technical and theoretical contribution and retrieval of meaningful analyses and assessments

Where Protocol may be the main driver

- Enclosed bathing waters
- Coverage by community water supplies and equitable access
- Sanitation in remote/scarcely populated areas
- Water related diseases

Enclosed bathing (pool&spa) waters

Not identified by EU

Health related issues to be addressed

Legislation on and implementation of

- registry/licensing of designers;
- authorization of construction and engineering plans;
- technologies and materials permitting;
- bathers' load, water exchange and water quality standards;
- pool safety (health risks reduction)

Drinking water and sanitation to all

Issues vaguely or not at all addressed by the European law and policy

- quantitative coverage
- equitable access (accessibility and affordability)
- concern for the vulnerable and excluded

Water related diseases

- Surveillance and Early Warning
- Legal system addressing the issue
- Competent institutional structure
- Live coordination

A clear subject for close cooperation and common policy development

Principal basis of Protocol

- Cross-sectoral cooperation
 - To sensibly realize gov't responsibility
 - To ensure broad coverage and involvement
 - To ensure health priorities in (water) development
 - To guarantee consistency of programmes and match stakeholders interests
 - To safeguard observance of Protocol principles through legislation and implementation
- Core group to direct and oversee
 - As wide as reasonable involvement of gov't departments, agencies and NGOs

Extension policy

- Recourse to EU assistance
 - Investment and aid in infrastructure
 - Support of democratic progress
 - Policy dialogues
- Making use of the Protocol to pioneer non-infrasturctural assistance
 - Project Facilitation
 - Target setting
 - Integrated Water Management
 - Capacity building

EU and PWH – compete or complement

Unique excellences – mutual benefits

Why could EU ratify the Protocol

- To more effectively promote common principles and ambitions
- For optimum access to each others resources

**Protocol on
Water and Health**

**Acquis
Communautaire**

Thank you for the kind attention