



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

# Key Messages of the Symposium “Climate Change and the European Water Dimension”

## Common Implementation Strategy (CIS) activities on Climate Change (CC) and the European Water Policy

*Meike Gierk*

*Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety*

*Germany*



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Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety

 EU 2007 DE



**Time To Adapt**

**Climate Change  
and the  
European  
Water Dimension**

**Vulnerability – Impacts –  
Adaptation**



**Umwelt  
Bundes  
Amt**  
Für Mensch und Umwelt



Berlin - 12 to 14 February 2007



# Background

- **DE Presidency Conference, in cooperation with EC**
- **Reports on**
  - **„Climate Change Impacts on the Water Cycle, Resources and Quality“ (DG Research together with JRC) and**
  - **„Climate Change and Water Adaptation Issues“ (EEA)****delivered a valuable input to the symposium.**
- **Aim: draw up recommendations for adaptation strategies**



# It is time to adapt!

## Key Messages

- **It is time to adapt now! Scientific evidence urges action**
- **EU water and marine policy provide a solid basis for integrated water resource management**
- **The “user pays principle” needs to be fully implemented**
- **Further research activities are necessary**
- ***A successful adaptation strategy needs a common and integrated approach***
- ***Do not forget the world outside the EU!***

- ▶ ***All EU policy areas need to undergo an adaptation check***
- ▶ ***Intensive cooperation and common action at EU level needed***

# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## Mandate:

- WD agreed in Dec. 2006 on CIS Activity on CC & WATER  
(milestone succeeding it: Conference on CC...)

## Organisation:

- Co-Lead by EC and Germany  
Representatives from MS, Stakeholders and NGO's
- Other CIS-groups deliver specific input from their field of expertise (hydromorphology, floods, ecological status, water scarcity and droughts, agriculture)

# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## Objectives:

- **identifying best uses of existing EU water legislation**
  - Impact of CC on qualitative and quantitative issues in different regions
  - Climate relevant gaps (pressure, impacts)
  - What should and could be done in upcoming RBMP
  
- **identifying adaptation measures and best practices at different levels**
  - Contribute to EU adaptation strategies/ensure cross-sectoral perspective
  - Strategies and possible measures at national/regional level
  - EU funding possibilities for adaptation measures
  
- **strengthening the science/policy link to Climate Change and Water to ensure**
  - a science/policy interface by identifying research needs,
  - communicating them to the research community and
  - making best use of available research results.



# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## First milestones:

- Workshop in Bonn 20-21 November 2007

## Outcomes:

1. Relevant CC impacts for WFD implementation
2. Action for 1st RBMP
3. Action for 2nd/3rd cycle
4. Data and knowledge gaps
5. Uncertainties and science-policy link

# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## 1. Relevant CC impacts for WFD implementation

- ▶ **Cooling water for power plants**
- ▶ **Hydropower**
- ▶ **Navigation**
- ▶ **Water supply and water resources management plans**
- ▶ **Infrastructure**
- ▶ **Land use changes**



# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## 2. Action for 1st RBMP

- ▶ **Chapter on CC is recommended (national/international level)**
- ▶ **Facilitating public consultation**
- ▶ **Improving awareness of all factors for CC trends and impacts**
- ▶ **Paving the way for more CC related actions in 2nd/3rd cycle**
- ▶ **Allowing incorporating international, national, regional information on prediction**

# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## 3. Action for 2nd/3rd cycle

- ▶ Focus on monitoring to detected CC impacts
- ▶ Consider long-term water management time scale (25-50 years)
- ▶ RBMP should look into broader water management issues related to CC (flood management, spatial planning/land use change,etc.)
- ▶ Programmes of measures need to be climate proofed
- ▶ ...

# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## 4. Data and knowledge gaps

- ▶ **Model chains need to be improved (global -> local)**
- ▶ **CC impact need to be transformed into impacts on ecological status**
- ▶ **Agreement at appropriate level is needed on scenarios and model application (European and/or river basin level)**
- ▶ **Make research results more widely available**
- ▶ **Data infrastructure needs to be improved**
- ▶ **...**

# CIS Activity on Climate Change and the EU Water Policy

## 5. Uncertainties and science-policy link

- ▶ **Uncertainties need to be communicated transparently**
- ▶ **More research is needed on physical processes and on how to deal with still remaining uncertainties**
- ▶ **Scientific information needs to be translated to water managers**
- ▶ **Measures with less uncertainties should be prioritised**
- ▶ **...**

# Follow-up

## ➤ Foreseen activities:

- Discuss Workshop Outcomes
- Prepare exchange of best practices on a climate check of the first Programme of Measures
- Prepare guidance for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle on the basis of the outcomes of the workshop and the workshop input paper

## ➤ Exchange of practices presented to WD end 2008

## ➤ Guidance for 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> cycle presented to WD end 2009



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**Thank you for your attention!**

[meike.gierk@bmu.bund.de](mailto:meike.gierk@bmu.bund.de)