

COMMENTS ON THE AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC NATIONAL WATER STRATEGY / DRAFT. 1. MAY 2012

PROF. KARI KINNUNEN
FINNISH ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE

GENERAL COMMENTS

- THE STRATEGY IS NOW QUITE WELL FORMULATED
- BACKGROUND SITUATION IS ANALYZED WELL
- GOOD PAPER FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND DISCUSSION INSIDE THE COUNTRY
- ALSO THE CONNECTION OF THE STRATEGY AND DEVELOPMENT OF LEGISLATION IS WELL UNDERSTOOD
- INCLUDING WELL FORMULATED INDICATORS TO THE IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS OF THE STRATEGY IS GOOD
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGY IS ULTIMATELY A FOREVER CONTINUING PROCESS WHICH SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED



SOME DETAILED COMMENTS

- IN RIVERINE ENVIRONMENTS THE FLOW PATTERN IS REALLY IMPORTANT. ALSO THE LOW-FLOW SITUATION IS CRITICAL, ESPECIALLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. IN THE STRATEGY MOSTLY FLOOD HAS BEEN TACKLED.
- WATERS ARE POLLUTED OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY BUT ALSO INSIDE OF THE COUNTRY, SO THE DOMESTIC WASTE WATER PURIFICATION ACTIVITIES ARE ALSO VERY IMPORTANT.

SOME DETAILED COMMENTS cont.1

- uneven spatial and seasonal distribution of water resources
- the lakes and rivers are heavily polluted with both organic and inorganic substances (municipalities and industry)
- in the lowlands groundwater often has a high salt content
- majority of the population does not have reliable access to safe drinking water
- leaking sewers **and transmission lines** and only about 3 per cent of the discharged water is treated
- water losses in agriculture mainly because of inefficient and poorly maintained irrigation systems
- floods and sedimentation of rivers
- trans-boundary pollution
- water constructions and River Systems regulations environmental effects
- dam safety questions
- a decrease of 15% of both run-off and groundwater recharge is expected within the next 50 years due to the predicted increase of air temperature by 3 °C to 4 °C
- **poor water ecological conditions in rivers**

SOME DETAILED COMMENTS cont.2

- GOOD TRANS-BOUNDARY WATER COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL. COULD IT BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH A COMMON TRANSBOUNDARY WATER COMMISSION . THERE ARE MANY GOOD EXAMPLES IN THE WORLD
- WHEN DEVELOPING THE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN A MORE DETAILED PRIORITIZATION SHOULD BE CREATED
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARDS AND LEGISLATION SHOULD BE BALANCED WITH THE PRIORITIZATION AND REALISTIC POSSIBILITIES OF THE SOCIETY
- HARMONIZATION WITH THE EU-LEGISLATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIRECTIVES SHOULD BE A LONG-TERM GOAL



FINAL COMMENT

- **ADAPTATION OF EU WATER RELATED LEGISLATION AND DIRECTIVES AS SUCH IS NOT POSSIBLE IN AZERBAIJAN. THE GOALS ARE GOOD BUT IMPLEMENTATION TAKES LONG TIME**
- **IMPLEMENTATION OF WATER POLICY SHOULD ALWAYS BE RELATED TO THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND SOCIETY!**