



Water scarcity & droughts policy in the EU

The next steps towards a Blueprint for
Europe's waters

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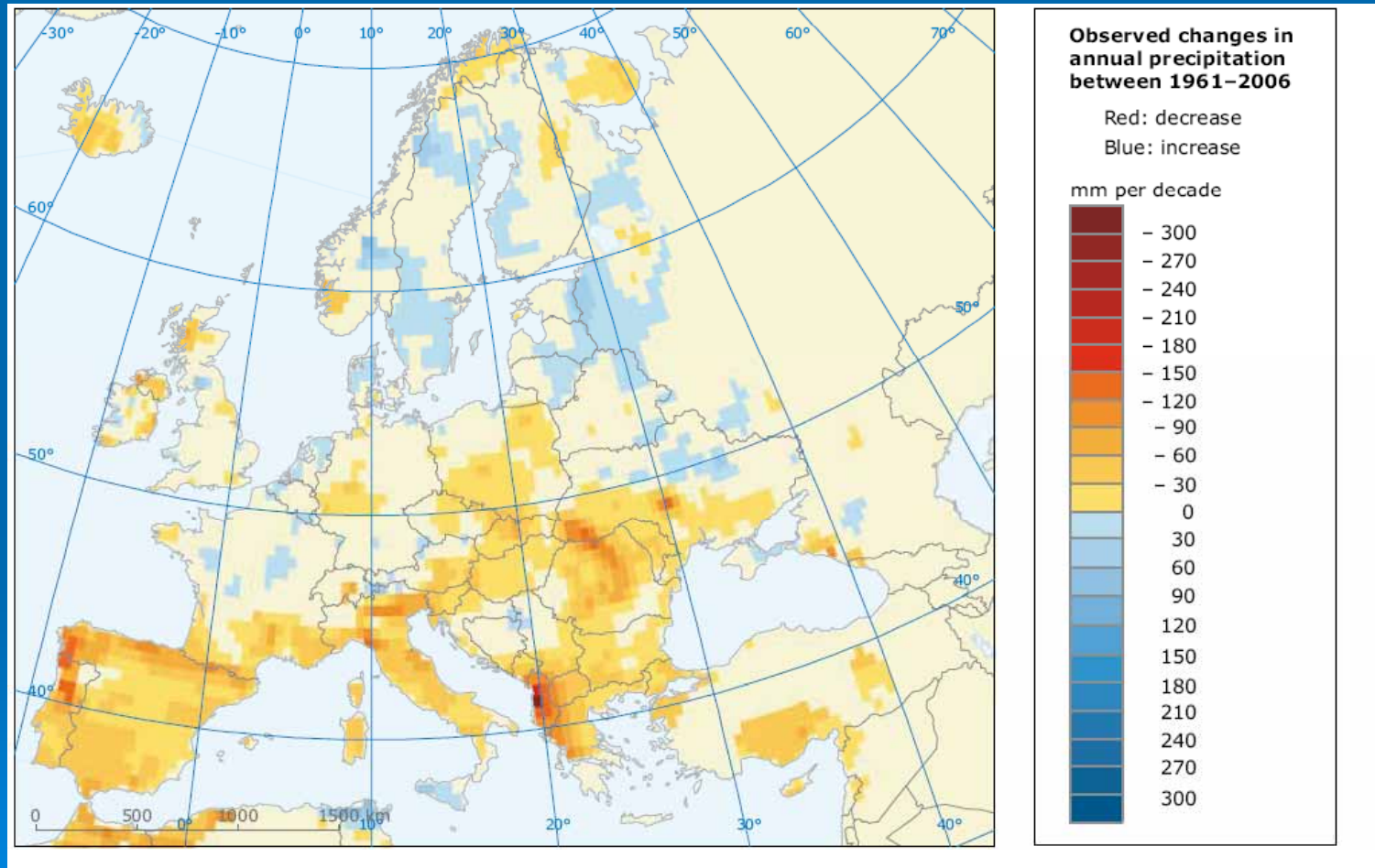
Why is water use a concern in Europe?

- Balance between demand and availability has reached a critical level in many areas of Europe (water scarcity)
- More and more areas are affected by weather changes, in particular less rain (droughts)
- Climate change will almost certainly make the situation worse
- More frequent and severe droughts expected across Europe and the neighbouring countries

Business as usual scenario:

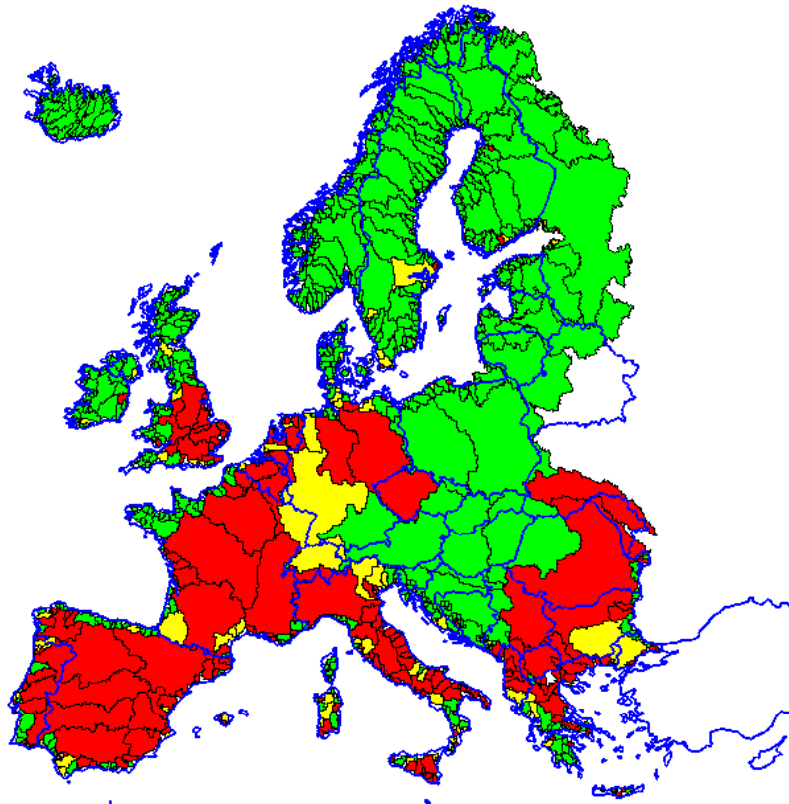
Total abstraction will increase by 16% by 2030

Climate change is already here

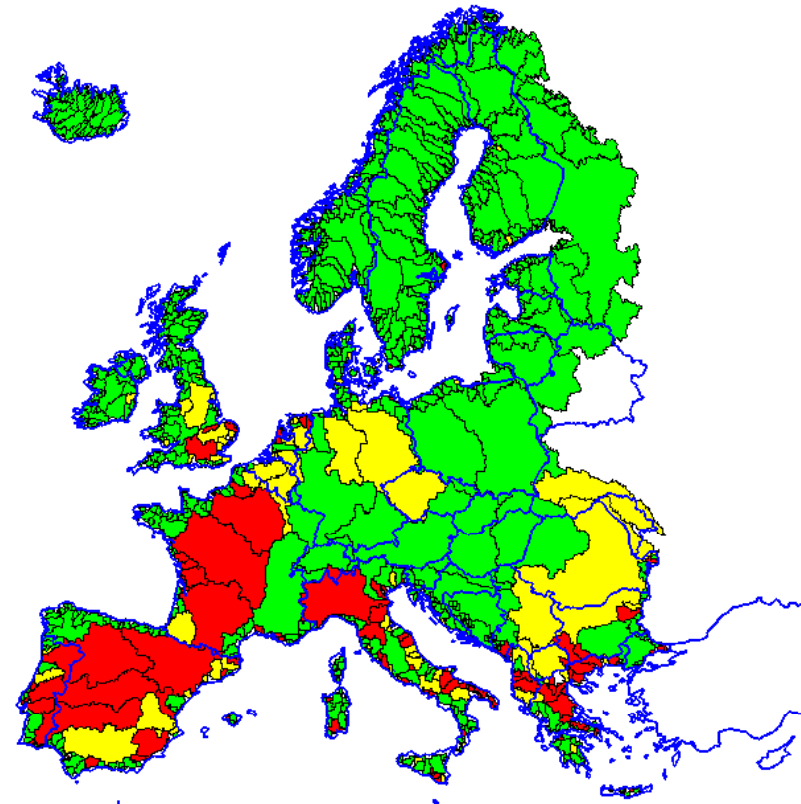


And it is getting worse.....




FP6 SCENES Scenario
«Economy First» 2050



FP6 SCENES Scenario
«Sustainability Eventually» 2050



Source: DG Environment,
ClimWatAdapt database, 2011

-  Low stress (WEI < 20%)
-  Medium stress (20% < WEI < 40%)
-  High stress (WEI > 40%)

What have we done about it so far?

- A broad water policy in place in the EU since 2000 - Water Framework Directive
- Focus largely non quality issues – more focus is needed on quantity
- Commission Communication WS&D 2007:
7 policy options:
 - Putting the right price tag on water
 - **Improving drought risk management**
 - Fostering water efficient technologies and practices
 - **Fostering the emergence of a water-saving culture**
 - **Allocating water** & water-related funding efficiently
 - Considering additional water supply infrastructures
 - **Improve knowledge and data collection**
- Whitepaper on Adaptation to Climate Change in 2009

Next step – A Blueprint for Europe's Waters

- A policy response at European level
 - to address the implementation issues related to the current EU policy framework
 - to develop measures to tackle in particular water availability and water quantity problems
- The Blueprint will:
 - Look into gaps and shortcomings of the current policy and ways to address them
 - Look at the evolving vulnerability of the water environment to identify measures and tools in several EU policy areas
 - Examine the balance between water demand and supply, taking into account the needs of both human activities and natural ecosystems
 - Supported by data collection, scientific and technological development

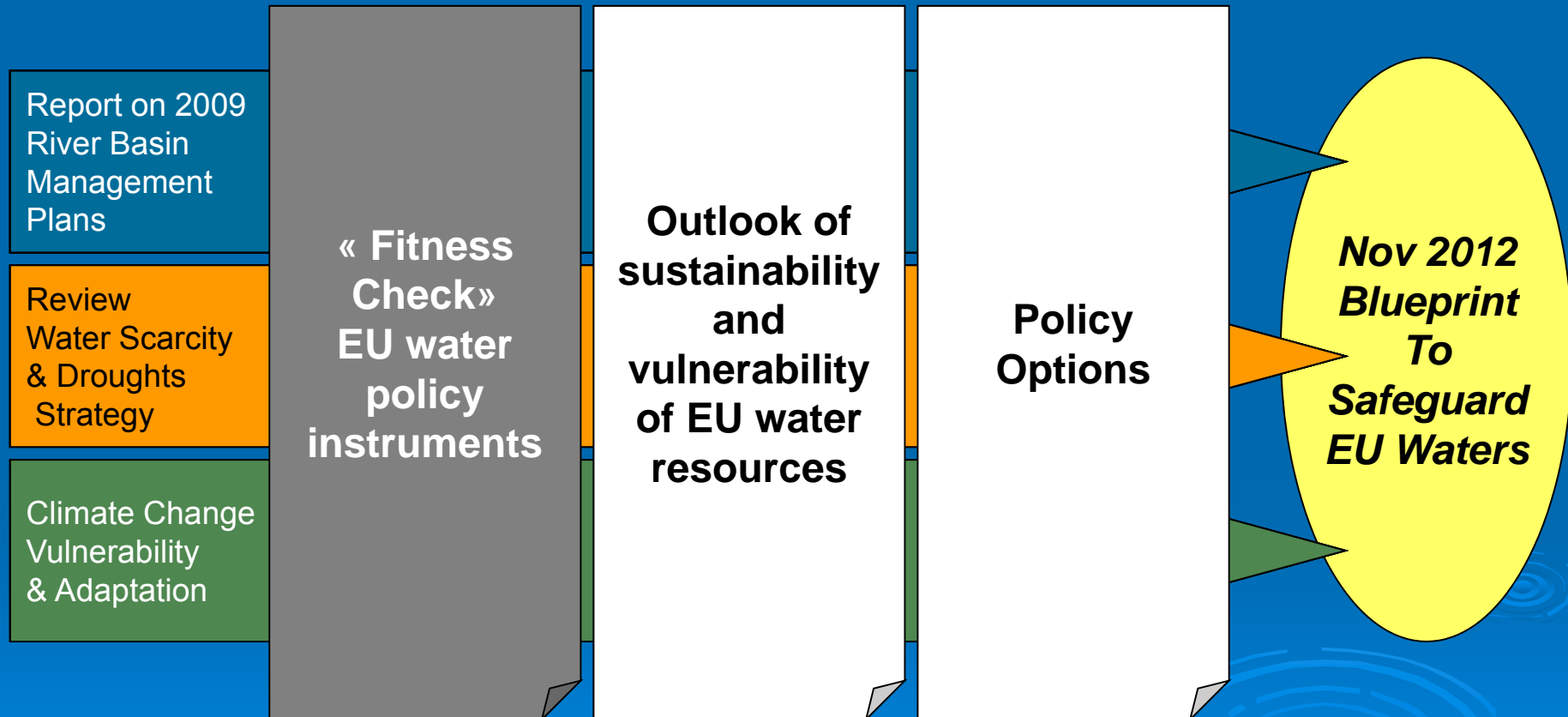
Objective:

to ensure good quality water in sufficient quantities for all authorised uses in the long term

3 types of action:

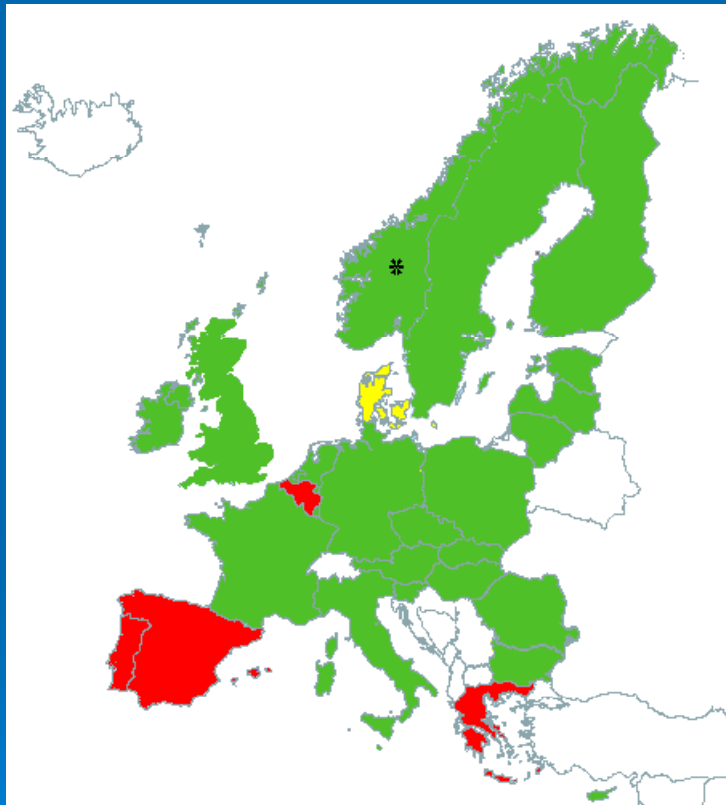
- Better Implementation
 - The assessment of the River Basin Management Plans delivered by the Member States
 - The Fitness Check of EU water policy
- Better integration
 - In particular: Agriculture, Energy , Regional and Cohesion policy, Research& Innovation, Transport
- Completion
 - The review of the EU policy on Water Scarcity and Drought
 - The assessment of the vulnerability of water resources to climate change and other man made pressures

The Blueprint process





Assessment of River Basin Management Plans



(In red, MS that have not yet delivered their plans, updated 1/09/2011)

- In-depth assessment topics include:
 - Governance (administrative arrangements, public participation, international cooperation)
 - Characterisation of the river basin district
 - Monitoring of surface waters and groundwater
 - Classification of surface water status
 - Designation of heavily modified water bodies and definition of good ecological potential
 - Assessment of groundwater status
 - Environmental objectives and exemptions
 - Programme of measures
 - Strategy to deal with water scarcity and droughts
 - Adaptation to climate change in RBMP

Water scarcity & droughts Policy Review

■ GAP Analysis

- ➔ Overview of problem & existing measures
- ➔ Identification of gaps
- ➔ Proposal of new measures
- ➔ Assessment of impact of new measures

■ Water Efficiency - building blocks

- Water Supply Infrastructure - Water & economic loss caused by leakage - best practices
- Buildings - Options for water performance requirements for buildings and products – link with energy consumption
- Agriculture - Water savings, reducing unsustainable water abstraction, Water pricing in agriculture
- Industry, further introduction of low-water use industrial processes
- All sectors: possibilities for re-use & recycling of waste water

Water & Climate Change Adaptation

- Contribution to 2013 EU adaptation strategy
- First building block, ClimWatAdapt project:
 - ➔ Building of **vulnerability indicators**, integrating **socio-economic and climate scenarios**
 - ➔ Catalogue of adaptation measures: identification of priority action at EU level
 - ➔ Final report still being drafted
 - ➔ Integration results into EU Clearinghouse on CC Impacts Vulnerability and Adaptation
- Next steps
 - ➔ Filling gaps: input from FP7 research projects
 - ➔ Focus on Water Efficiency and on Natural Water Retention Measures

“Fitness Test” EU Water policy

- Part of European Commission Smart Regulation policy
 - ➔ identify excessive burdens, overlaps, gaps, inconsistencies and/or obsolete measures which may have appeared over time
- Objective:
 - ➔ Assess the relevance, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the EU freshwater policy.
 - ➔ Scope: Water Framework, Groundwater, Priority Substance, Floods, Urban Waste Water and Nitrates Directives + Water Scarcity & Droughts policy
- Preliminary findings for public consultation and discussion with stakeholders
 - http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/pdf/safeguard_fitness_freshwater.pdf
- Stakeholder workshop in January 2012.
- The Commission will publish a final report, early 2012

Outlook for EU water resources

- The Blueprint impact assessment identify the broad range of pressures on water resources:
 - ➔ Organic/Nutrient pollution, dangerous substances
 - ➔ Hydromorphology/ Sediments
 - ➔ Disruption water cycle, droughts, floods
 - ➔ Over-exploitation water resources
- It will build on the EEA State Of the Environment Report (SOER 2010), complemented by the EEA « State of Water » report to be published at the same time as the Blueprint
- Cross-sectoral / cross-policies assessment (drivers, responses)
- Common baseline, medium (2020-30) and long-term (2050) scenarios, sensitivity analysis.

From problem description to objectives

- Problem description
 - Identification of the **key challenges**
 - Which **measures** are needed as a **priority**
 - Analysis of the need to act at EU level → **policy options**
- Objectives
 - **General**: A water (and resources) efficient society (link to Europe 2020)
 - **Specific**: Indicative targets at EU level on natural water retention, water savings, water reuse/recycling, water quality
 - **Operational**: link to policy options

Policy options

- 7 key areas identified
 - Land Use
 - Economic Incentives
 - Water use targets
 - Governance
 - Knowledge Base
 - Innovation
 - Global Dimension
- Policy options to be selected on the basis of the IA and presented in the Blueprint

Policy options (1/7): Develop a positive role for land-use

- Land Use change is one of the main drivers of the degradation of water resources and vulnerability to extreme events.
- Identify and analyse natural water retention measures that could be widely implemented at EU level
 - ➔ Reforestation, soil management, sustainable urban drainage systems, floodplain restoration, etc
 - ➔ Assessment of co-benefits and barriers to implementation
- Define the policy instruments that can accelerate the implementation of those measures.
 - ➔ Guidelines for RBMP
 - ➔ Integration into territorial management instruments (CAP, Cohesion Policy, local planning)
 - ➔ Payment for Ecosystem Services

Policy options (2/7): Economic incentives for a more efficient water resources management

- Develop a consistent approach for the internalisation of costs from water use and water pollution.
- The options to be developed include:
 - More concrete criteria for pricing, taxation, removal of harmful subsidies, etc.
 - Setup of water allocation schemes (including tradable permits) in water scarce areas.
 - Payment for ecosystem services
 - Certification schemes
 - Water efficiency in buildings and distribution networks

Policy options (3/7): Water efficiency targets

- Water accounts being developed by European Commission and EEA
 - As support for a policy aiming at a more resource efficient use of water (quantity + quality)
 - As support for a policy promoting implementation of ecosystem based approaches for water provision
 - As a tool for demand management at RB level
- Policy Options:
 - Development of **targets for water efficiency** (and quality improvement) in the MS at sectoral and river basin level
 - Provide a framework for the **development of water efficiency measures**, in particular reuse and recycling

Policy options (4/7): Governance

■ Input from the Fitness Check:

- A set of specific suggestions to improve the governance system stemming from EU water policy

■ On that basis, and building on the RBMPs assessments, options to be developed will aim at:

- Improving the **administrative setup** (at both national and trans-boundary level, e.g. enhancing the role of River Basin Authorities)
- Improve the **efficiency of the implementation** (e.g. reporting requirements) while providing the reactive capacity needed to face emerging challenges (e.g. climate change adaptation)

Policy options (5/7): Knowledge base

- On-going knowledge mapping
- Fitness Check / Assessment RBMP: Identification of gaps, administrative burden, areas for improvement
- Trans-boundary river basins: need for coherence/transparency on water allocation
- Possible options
 - Stronger statistics activity on pressures on water resources
 - River basin, seasonal focus
 - Increased use of satellite and land GMES observations
 - Enhanced Water Information System for Europe (WISE) to include policy relevant indicators
 - Development of a roadmap for water research under the next Framework Programme

Policy options (6/7): Innovation

- Plans for an Innovation Partnership (IP) on Water Efficiency:
 - ➔ To identify means to foster innovation in water resource management and ways to overcome barriers
 - ➔ Multidisciplinary and multi-stakeholder approach - The IP is being defined with stakeholders
- 3 work packages: Urban areas, Rural areas and Industrial users
 - ➔ Up to 30 Innovation sites to be established across Europe to test innovative solutions (technology, management practices, etc.)
 - ➔ Focus on disseminating solutions and integrating the gradual output of the partnership into DG ENV policy development and implementation cycle

Policy options (7/7): Global aspects

- Water availability will - also at the global level - represent a growing challenge
- Supporting integrated water management in developing countries
 - Increasing demand for drinking water
 - 90% population growth up to 2050 in developing countries
 - In 2006 already 1.9 billion people living in countries facing water shortages
 - More food production – increasing irrigation to boost yields
 - Growing urbanisation and industrialisation (water and energy intensive-use sectors)
 - Unsustainable uses
 - Increasing energy demand – increased need for cooling, hydropower, biofuels (2% of irrigated land is planted for generation of bio energy)
- We will therefore see how to make sure that the EU do not increase our pressure on 3rd countries where water resources are scarce (water footprint)
- Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on access to drinking water and sanitation
- Relevant outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference

Thank you for your attention

Questions?

More information:

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/index_en.htm

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The bottom right corner of the slide features a decorative graphic of several concentric, light blue circles of varying sizes, resembling ripples on water, set against the dark blue background.