

# **THE EU WFD, A DRIVING FORCE FOR SHARED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

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**E. KOLOKYTHA**

**Assistant Professor**

Department of Civil Engineering,  
Division of Hydraulics and  
Environmental Engineering, Aristotle  
University of Thessaloniki, Greece

# TRANSBOUNDARY WATER RESOURCES

- 40% of the world's population live in transboundary 264 catchment areas, shared by more than one country. There exist countries that draw more than 75% of their water resources from upstream countries.
- In Europe, 20 countries depend for more than 10% of their water resources on neighboring countries
- Need for concerted management and harmonization of policies

# THE WFD

The New Water Framework Directive 2000/60 elects the management of shared water resources which constitutes a question of exceptional importance since it is related directly to the safety and the maintenance of peace in the world.

Past examples of international collaboration are focused in concrete, individual questions that concern in water while the new Directive reveals a wider approach which completes the total of parameters that is related with water in the river basin level.

# **TRANSBOUNDARY WATER MANAGEMENT ACCORDING TO THE WFD**

- River Basin Management and Integrated Water Management are introduced, not only for the EU countries, but also for the countries having boundaries with them.
- A common framework is provided between neighbor countries, for the co-operation, planning and management of water resources

# THE EU WFD 2000/60

- Through the WFD, EU policy moves from protection of particular waters of special interest (such as a nature area, specific aquatic organisms, drinking water) to protection and use based on an overall approach, extended to all waters.
- The overall system provided by the WFD is based on a central concept, present also in the Helsinki Convention, which is **integration**

# Integration: key notion

The Directive integrates

- ✓ all water resources
- ✓ ecological objectives
- ✓ water uses and functions
- ✓ Interdisciplinary analyses and expertise within a common policy framework.

The aim is “the good ecological status” for water bodies.

# Integration: key notion

- ✓ Integration of freshwater management and coastal zone management;
- ✓ Integration of land and water management;
- ✓ Integration of surface water and groundwater management;
- ✓ Integration of quantity and quality in water resources management;
- ✓ Integration of upstream and downstream water-related interests;

# THE EUROPEAN WFD main characteristics

- ✓ Management at River Basin Level
- ✓ Economic analysis of water use
- ✓ River Basin Management Plan and programs of measures
- ✓ Public Participation in the WRM process



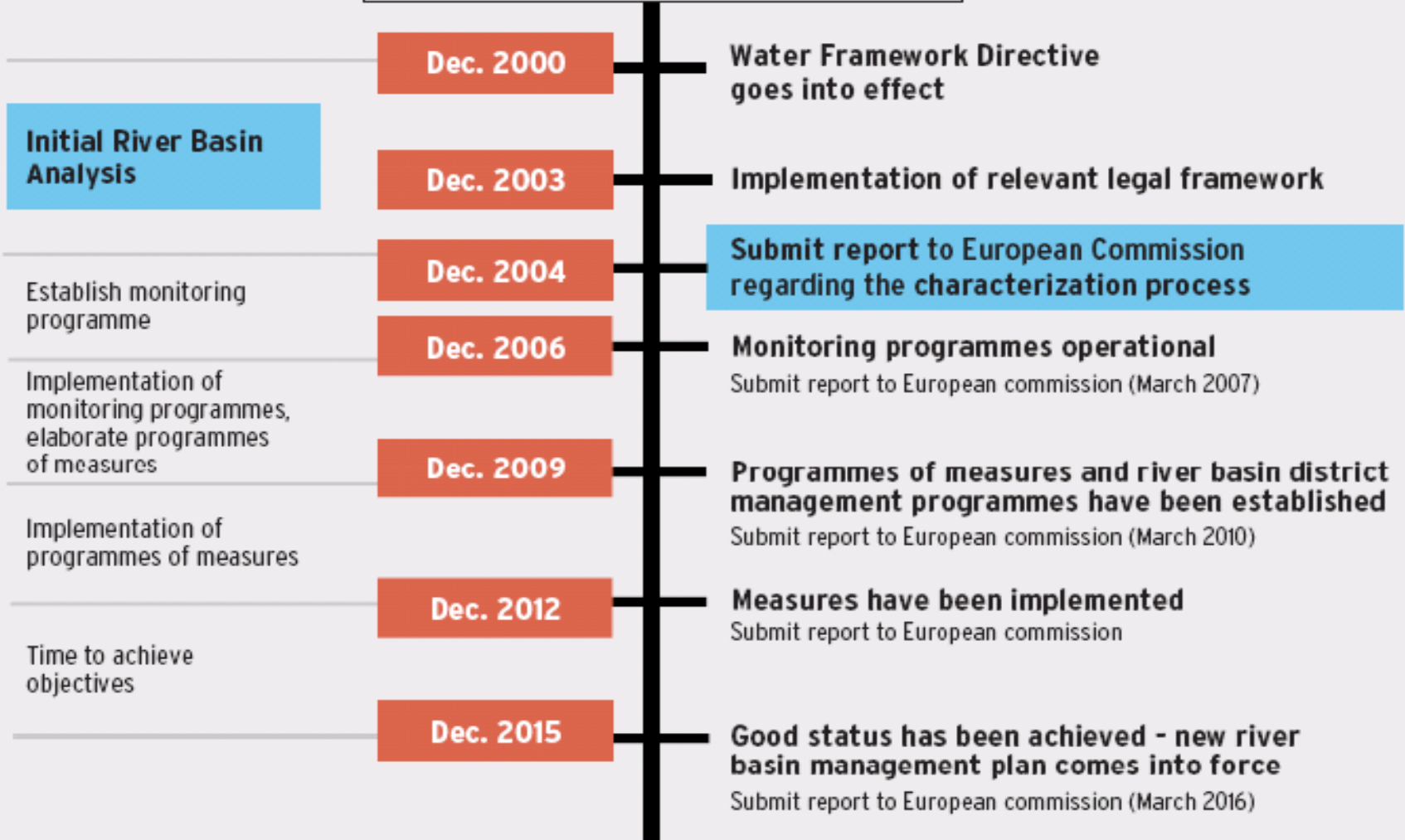
# WFD

## a driving force for cooperation

- The WFD could act as a guideline for international cooperation as it promotes the sustainable management of transboundary watercourses among both EU and non EU countries through the design and implementation of joint management plans, joint river authorities, transboundary river basin units and coordinated national measures at a river basin scale.
- At the substantive level, the process of harmonization can be basically facilitated by a set of legal elements, respective criteria and standards based on and deriving from **the principle of equitable utilization, the environmental protection rules and from sustainable development considerations.**

# WFD/2000 Framework

## Implementation schedule for the Water Framework Directive



# General provisions for implementing the WFD

Several instruments must be taken into account and applied in combination so as to satisfy the integrated approach to water management adopted by the WFD:

- EU Community legislation setting environmental quality standards, emission limit values, Best Available Technologies (BATs) and Best Environmental Practices (BEPs) and relevant procedures, mainly for the protection of freshwater;
- EU Community and international instruments regarding hazardous substances;
- EU Community legislation and international instruments concerning protection of biodiversity, and especially protected areas for the conservation of habitats and species;

EU Community legislation and international instruments regarding environmental assessment with public participation;  
International conventions for the protection of the marine environment,

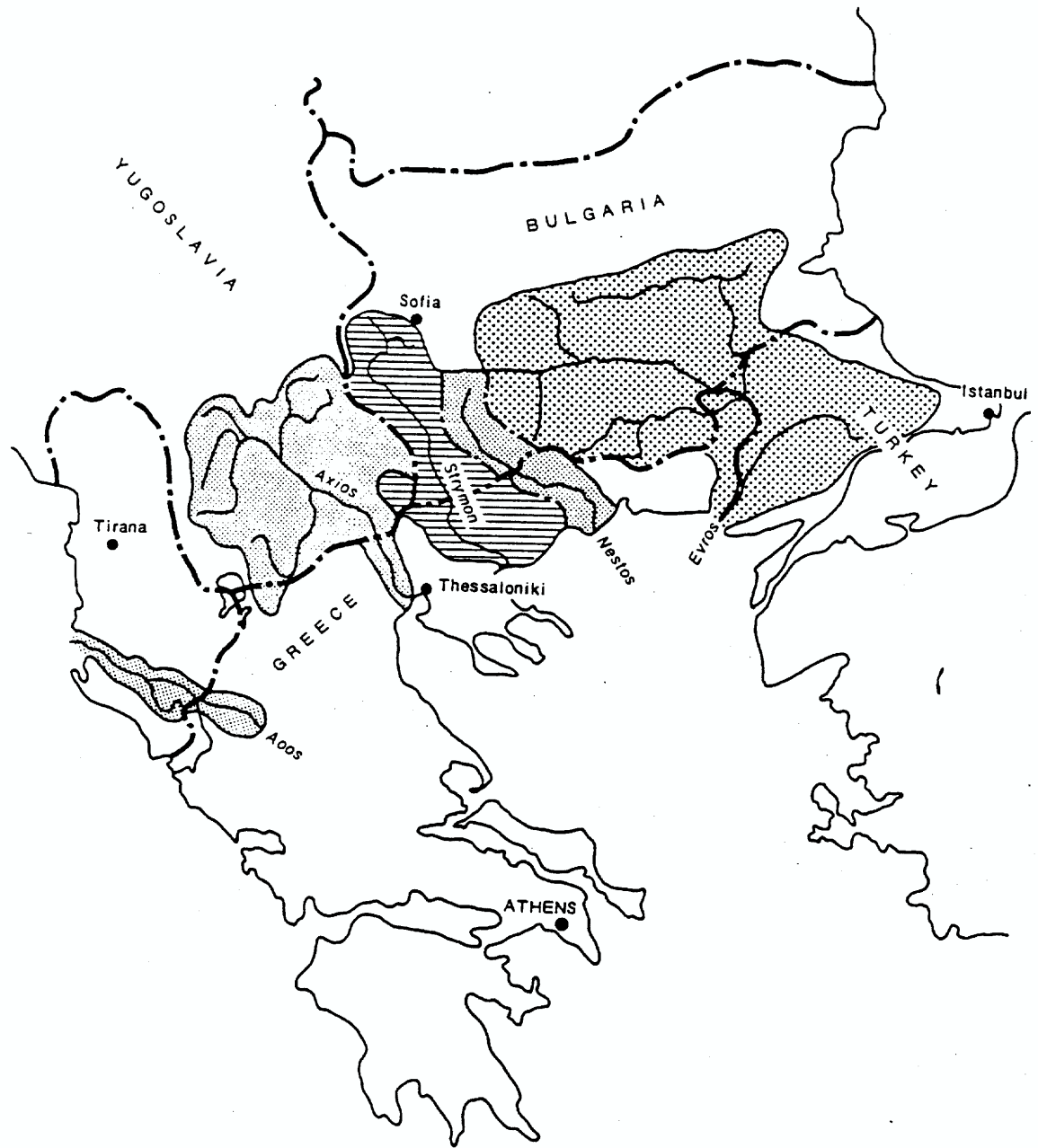
all have an crossing point with the WFD and must find their proper place in the implementation process in each country, as well as in co-operative arrangements in the case of shared river basins.

## International River Basins of

# EUROPE



# International River Basins Affecting Greece



# Nestos/Mesta Basin



- ✓ 60%-40%
- 6,280 km<sup>2</sup>
- ✓ 230 km
- ✓ 176,000 population
- ✓ Mainly covered with forests
- ✓ People are mainly occupied in the primary sector
- ✓ Protected areas (Delta, Nestos Pass, Pirin National Park)

# THE BALKAN NESTOS- MESTA CASE

**Originates from the Rila Mountains in southern Bulgaria**  
**Flows for a distance of 230 km and discharges into the North Aegean Sea.**  
**Total catchment area:6.200 km<sup>2</sup>**  
**Delta region: 440 km<sup>2</sup>**  
**Total population in the basin:177.000 people.**  
**In the Greek part:42.000 inhabitants (119 settlements)**  
**In the Bulgarian part: 135.000 people (93 settlements).**



# THE GREEK- BULGARIAN CASE STUDY

- Different socio-economic conditions between the two countries
- The political situation with the transition phase to the free market - economy in Bulgaria is still unclear
- No common water management and environmental protection plans have been established
- No joint monitoring systems along the river exist
- Lack of integrated water management & allocation



# EXISTING LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- **2002** *"Agreement between the Ministry for the Environment, Physical Planning and Public Works of the Hellenic Republic and the Ministry of the Environment and Water of the republic of Bulgaria on cooperation in the field of environmental protection under the principles of sustainable development "*
- **1995** *"Agreement between the Government of The Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria for the waters of river Nestos".*
- **1964** *"Agreement on cooperation between the people's Republic of Bulgaria and the Kingdom of Greece concerning the utilization of the waters of the rivers crossing the two countries".*

# The G-B Agreement of 1995

- 29% of the river flow to be received by Greece
- Exchange of information
- Establishment of a cross-border Committee
- Enforcement period: 35 years

# Compliance With the WFD

## WFD

- River Basin Level
- Economic analysis of water use
- River Basin Management Plan
- Public Participation

## G-B Agreement

- ⇒ Nestos River
- ⇒ No reference
- ⇒ No preparation
- ⇒ Only authorities involved

## **BULGARIA -WFD**

**2000 Water Act followed by subsequent implementing regulations, rules and executive administrative orders provide a sufficient normative basis for the necessary institutional reforms and arrangements.**

# BULGARIA -WFD

Through the new Bulgarian water legislation the following key issues of the WFD have been fulfilled :

- ✓ integrated management of water resources
- ✓ provision for environmental protection
- ✓ assignment of river basins as management units with defined administrative structures
- ✓ active public participation in water management
- ✓ preparation of river basin management plan

# **AN IMPROVED GREEK/BULGARIAN RIVER BASIN AGREEMENT**

- ✓ ***Objectives of the Agreement***
- ✓ ***Geographical Scope of the Basin Agreement***
- ✓ ***Subject of the Agreement***
- ✓ ***Responsibilities of the Parties***
- ✓ ***Main fields of cooperation***
- ✓ ***Formulation of Joint body of the Basin Agreement***
- ✓ ***Coordination mechanisms to implement the Basin Agreement / economic mechanisms***
- ✓ ***Duration of the agreement***


# THE AGREEMENT

The improvement of the existing legal framework will enhance current transboundary cooperation. A series of issues will be regulated by the agreement:

- ✓ water protection and use
- ✓ institutional arrangements for transboundary water cooperation
- ✓ management plans
- ✓ harmonization of programs and measures
- ✓ monitoring and research
- ✓ transfer of know-how and technology
- ✓ joint projects

# SUSTAINABLE SHARED WATER MANAGEMENT

CO- knowing

 sharing the  
information

CO-thinking



designing together

CO-operating



acting together



# Final questions

How and through what kind of processes water in transborder regions may unify rather than divide sharing nations and

How stakeholders in international water catchments may increase their benefits without causing losses to others?



The new paradigms of **complexity** and **interdependence** demand not to seek for the ideal solutions but a balance between “ideal” “desired futures” and “real” considerations

We should shift to necessary trade-offs and practicable solutions.

So under these circumstances, the WFD can and should be a driving force for cooperation