

The 7th World Water Forum

12-17 April 2015, Daegu-Gyeongbuk, KOREA

EUROPE REGIONAL PROCESS – SESSION R.DIRECTIVES.EU:

*The European Union Water Directives:
Efficient tools to reach the ambitious objectives of European
joint policy to safeguard water and aquatic environments*

Tuesday 14 April, 14h40-16h40
Gyeongju

The 2012 “Blue Print” to safeguard Europe waters

Marta MOREN-ABAT

Environment Directorate General, European Commission



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*
- *Total water abstraction in EU 247 billion m³/year*
 - 44% for energy production,
 - 24% for agriculture,
 - 17% for public water supply
 - 15% for industry

***Business as usual scenario:
Total abstraction will increase by 16% by 2030***





Policy to help promote water efficiency

Blueprint 2012

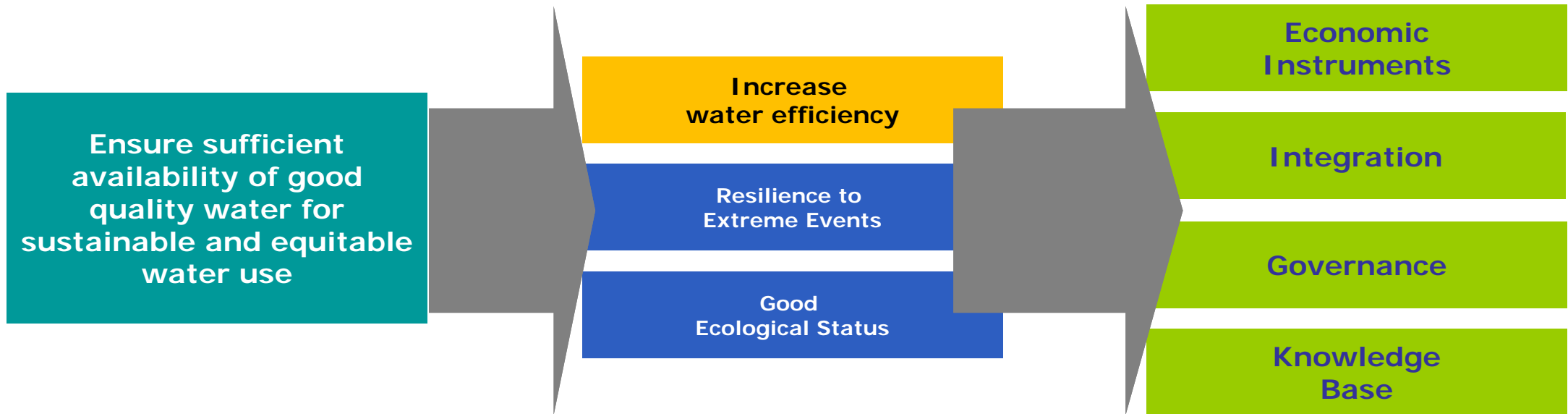
- Review of WFD implementation (RBMPs)
- Review of Water Scarcity and Droughts policy implementation
- Review of water resources vulnerability
- Fitness Check of EU fresh water policy
- EEA reports & other studies

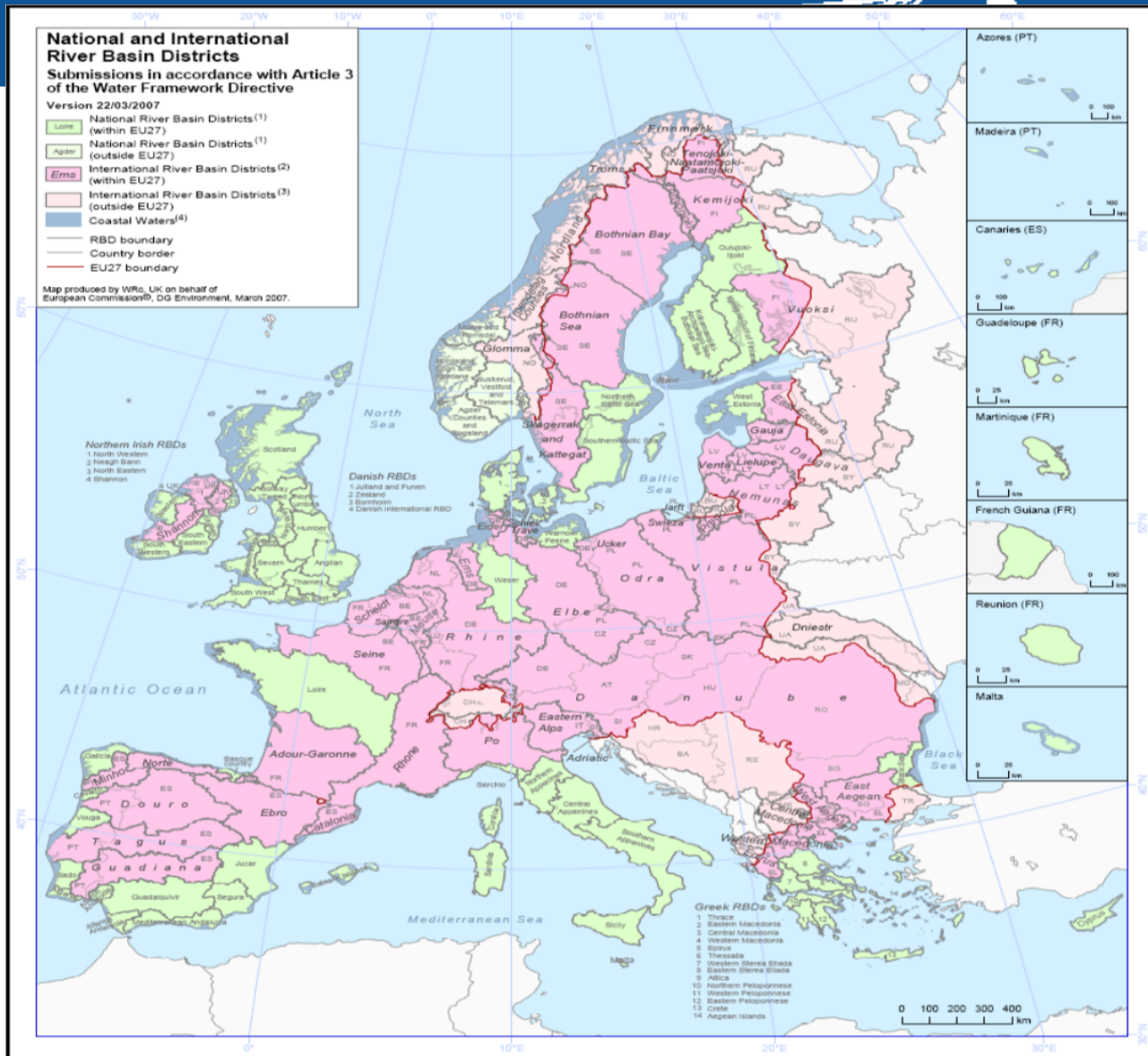
7 EAP Objective 2: to turn the EU into a resource-efficient, greener and more competitive low-carbon economy, i.a.:

- Industrial emissions
- Sustainable production and consumption
- Water stress



Blueprint Objectives





Diversity of river basins in Europe !



Blueprint impact assessment 12 priority problems

- Lack of water pricing
- Lack of metering
- Lack of labeling of traded goods
- Land use/Agricultural impacts (NWRM)
- Inefficiency in buildings/appliances
- Inefficient water infrastructure
- Lack of water re-use
- Governance
- Target setting
- Drought management
- Understanding costs and benefits
- Knowledge base





Blueprint policy Recommendations

- *Impressive **improvement** in the **knowledge** of water status*
- *Increased **transparency** in setting objectives and managing water*
- *The **ecological perspective** is generally now firmly integrated into the assessment of the status of surface waters and has become an integral part of water management*
- *However, still areas where additional guidance may be needed (monitoring, chemical status, costs and benefits analysis, hydro-morphology, setting of exemptions, water reuse, coherence of policies, etc)*
- *The assessment shows the need of a determined effort to ensure achievement of WFD objectives in the 2015 and 2021 cycles.*

