



**COUNCIL OF
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COVER NOTE

from: Secretary-General of the European Commission,
signed by Mr Jordi AYET PUIGARNAU, Director

date of receipt: 19 December 2008

to: Mr Javier SOLANA, Secretary-General/High Representative

Subject: Commission Staff Working Document accompanying the Follow up Report to
the Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts in the European Union
COM(2007) 414 final

Delegations will find attached Commission document SEC(2008) 3069.

Encl.: SEC(2008) 3069



COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 19.12.2008
SEC(2008) 3069

COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT

accompanying

**the Follow up Report to the Communication on Water Scarcity and Droughts in the
European Union COM(2007) 414 final**

{COM(2008) 875 final}

**WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MEASURES OF THE
COMMUNICATION ON WATER SCARCITY AND DROUGHTS**

1. PUTTING THE RIGHT PRICE TAG ON WATER		
– Combining effective water pricing with metering		
Introduce water pricing policies with incentives for efficient water use; make the 'user pays' principle the rule (art.9 of WFD)	National	• By 2010
Continue efforts to spread metering programmes more widely in all water using sectors – including compulsory controls on abstractions (art. 11(3)(e) of WFD)		
Take into account the OECD Work Programme on sustainable financing for sound water management		End 2008 - March 2009
2. ALLOCATING WATER AND WATER-RELATED FUNDING MORE EFFICIENTLY		
– Improving land-use planning		
Policy options of White Paper on adaptation to climate change	EU	From 2009
Follow up of CAP Health Check on cross-compliance	EU	2008/2009
Discussions on the post 2013 CAP (in the framework of the cross-compliance system) and cohesion policies	EU	From 2013
Study on impact of biofuel development on water availability	EU	Nov 2008
Continue stringent implementation of SEA Directive in all economic sectors	National	Now
Inclusion of appropriate regulations in WFD programmes of measures in order to restore a sustainable balance in all water-scarce river basins	National	Now to end 2009
– Financing water efficiency		
Follow up of CAP "health check" on modulation and rural development	EU and national	2008/2009
Study on place of WFD issues in rural development programmes	EU	Oct. 2008
Consider with Member States review of Community strategic guidelines on cohesion 2007-2013	EU and national	From 2009
Discussions on the post 2013 CAP (in the framework of the cross-compliance system)	EU	From 2013

Improve use of EU and national funds for water management within the programmes for 2007-2013 (including as a result of on-going evaluations)	National	2009/2010
Continue efforts to further develop fiscal incentives to promote water-efficient devices and practices	National	Now
3. IMPROVING DROUGHT RISK MANAGEMENT		
– Developing drought risk management plans		
Report on drought management plans	EU	2009
Development of drought management plans (according to Article 13(5) WFD)	National	By end 2009
– Developing an observatory and an early warning system on droughts		
Develop European Drought Observatory and early warning system	EU	By 2012
– Further optimising the use of the EU Solidarity Fund and the European Mechanism for Civil Protection		
In the framework of the next budget review examine whether further progress needs to be made in the definition of the criteria and eligible operations for the use of the EUSF to better respond to drought events	EU	From 2009
In relation to the Community Civil Protection Mechanism, consider all opportunities to focus on drought issues in future annual work programmes Request the Civil Protection Expert Group on early warning systems to develop an approach to optimize the use of the drought early warning system and anticipate any civil protection preparatory action	EU	From 2009 Once early warning system operational
4. CONSIDERING ADDITIONAL WATER SUPPLY INFRASTRUCTURES		
Commission preliminary assessment of all alternative options	EU	Nov 2008
Take all adverse effects linked to any new water supply infrastructure fully into account in the environmental assessment	National	Now
5. FOSTERING WATER EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES AND PRACTICES		
Assessment of possible needs for standards for water-using devices	EU	Mid 2009
Commission's proposal to include certain water-using devices in the Ecodesign Directive	EU	July 2008

Consider inclusion of water efficiency criteria in performance standards for buildings	EU	From 2009
Assessment of possible need for a new directive for the water performance of buildings	EU	Mid 2009
Inclusion of a performance indicator on the use of water in the proposal of revision of the EMAS regulation	EU	July 2008
Enhance efforts to further adopt binding performance criteria for new buildings and for public and private networks, with systems of fines for excessive leakages	National	Now
Continue efforts to develop voluntary agreements with all economic sectors that need water	EU and national	Now
6. FOSTERING THE EMERGENCE OF A WATER SAVING CULTURE IN EUROPE		
Explore, together with CSR Europe the possibility of launching an Alliance initiative on the efficient use of water	EU	End 2008
– Follow-up of Action Plan on SCP/SIP Encourage the extension of existing EU labelling schemes in order to promote water-friendly devices – Follow-up of Green Paper on agricultural product quality Consider in the light of the public consultation how (1) water management can be better integrated in certification schemes (2) these schemes can be used to promote water friendly products	EU	2008/2009
Continue efforts to develop actions of education, information and communication	National	Now
7. IMPROVING KNOWLEDGE AND DATA COLLECTION		
– Set up a water scarcity and drought information system throughout Europe		
Set up agreed indicators on the extent and impacts of water scarcity and droughts	EU	2008/2009
Present an annual European assessment based on data provided by MS and stakeholders to the EEA and the Commission	EU	From 2009
– Research and technological development opportunities		
Action focused on investigation of Europe's risk from droughts, including the development of a platform of exchange	EU	May 2008 – Nov 2009

