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Meeting Water Directors

# **Environmental Objectives and Exemptions**

## **State of Play**

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## Progress 2007



- Mandate endorsed in December 2006 in Finland;
  - Common understanding of 4.4-4.6 end of 2007
  - Comprehensive guidance document end 2008
  - Technical input by other groups, particularly WS&D and Floods
- Key messages and open issues presented to WD in Dresden;
- Draft Paper version 5.0 and Discussion Document to SCG 07/11/07;
- Discussions at SCG meeting 07/11/07 -> version 5.2 and Discussion Document version 2.0, incl. results meeting Expert Network on WS&D 15/11/07;
- Discussions have been fruitful and views have developed considerably over the last month.



## Current version Draft Paper and Discussion Document



- Part A (General Questions) and Part B (Assessment of Disproportionality) are split.
- Part A: general agreement, one open point on common understanding of 'extreme floods'.
- Part B: three open issues identified:
  - Role of public budget in discussions;
  - Difference in 4(4) and 4(5) for distributional consequences;
  - Role of distributional consequences in argumentation.
- Discussion document:
  - Presents current state of discussions;
  - Highlights different views regarding open points;
  - Captures different arguments and reflections;
  - Includes Part B of the Draft Document on Exemptions.



## Part A – request to WD



- Discuss and agree the identified open point;
- Endorse the final draft Paper version 5.2 Part A, including all Annexes I, II, III, IV and V;
- Support the publication of the document on the public WFD CIRCA library;



## Discussion Document and Part B – request to WD



- Take note of the Discussion Document, including its Annexes, and of the status of the discussion presented in the document;
- Use the Discussion Document as the basis of information for a policy debate at the meeting;
- Discuss and agree the areas and key points of common understanding and discuss the way in how these can be best communicated as a result of the meeting (e.g. by integrating them into the Exemptions Document);
- Identify those points where a common view cannot be reached during the meeting, and –if these points are identified- agree the appropriate way forward.



## Follow-up



- Invite the Drafting Group on Exemptions to continue its work by organising a workshop on case studies, mainly focusing on disproportionality. Such a workshop could take place in April in Copenhagen, and input from Member States would be required.
- Invite the Drafting Group, as foreseen in their mandate, to prepare one comprehensive and concise guidance document on exemptions of Article 4. This document should be presented to the Water Directors at their meeting in the end of 2008.