

A European perspective on water and environmental directives

CIWEM annual conference – dealing with directives

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Outline

- Why
- How
- Case study
- Conclusions

Why

- Large impacts of European legislation on responsible authorities – cost, planning, capacity
- Water Framework Directive
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Directive
- Habitat directive
- etc

How

Be present in Brussels

- Physical and psychological distance
- Knowledge of procedures
- Availability
- Network – relationships
- Monitoring of developments
- Keeping own organisation and members informed and active - input

How

- Use European Associations
 - Broader representation
 - Credibility
 - Efficiency
 - Access to EC working / expert groups
- Use different European Associations
- Look for coalitions

When, where and how to deliver the message

- Three institutions, different approach
 - European Commission: Directly & Eur. Ass.
 - European Parliament: National MEPs and Key MEPs
 - Council: Perm Rep & National Ministries
- Who talks to which audience?
- Timing
- Structural approach – long term

Case study – Floods directive

- Initiated by the Netherlands
- Dutch END writing proposal in EC
- Cooperation in dossierteam with Dutch Government
- Position and amendments to MEPs (Dutch and rapporteur)
- Use of EUREAU
- Contact with Council

Case study – Floods directive (2)

- Keeping focussed on bottom line issues
- Positive result:
 - Solidarity principle
 - Flexibility
 - Limited scope
 - Acceptable costs
 - Workable directive

Conclusion

- European legislation will have an impact
- Lobby is hard to quantify
- Long term perspective is needed – no quick wins
- Not feasible to sit back and wait

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Questions?