

Expected impact of Water Framework Directive Implementation

| Member State | Expected impact of Water Framework Directive implementation |
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| Austria | According to the experiences of the previous years, the WFD has a severe negative impact on the number of plants getting the approval but also on the length of the procedure, the costs to be spent for expertise and the economical viability of the plants. |
| Belgium | The WFD is expected to be applied to existing hydro plants. There is currently no application order to enforce the decree. Such an order should define objective criteria on whether or not to authorize exploitation of existing or new plants. In the meanwhile, the WFD is used as an argument to impose expensive over-sized fish passes at the costs of the hydro developers. |
| Denmark | WFD is expected to bring about negative impacts on hydropower development. |
| Estonia | The proclamation of the WFD has introduced a list of forbidden rivers which has impeded dramatically the development of SHP (112 watercourses or their reaches). |
| Finland | It remains to be seen whether the new water legislation will make reference to the WFD and whether old water and hydro power licenses will, in the future, have to comply with WFD. At present that is not the legal case. Environmental authorities are applying the WFD when judging the validity of old licenses and making decisions which are not in all of the cases legally binding. |
| France | Loss of production due to the increase of protected rate of flow and those which are reserved for the free movement of fishes. Prohibition of any new installation in classified rivers (which represent 100% of hydro potential in some basins). They even could destroy the plants if they obstruct the ecological continuity of the rivers. There has been a freeze on potential. |
| Germany | The WFD has been introduced into the water legislation since 2000. It is expected to be applied for all existing and new SHPPs. Investment costs and reduction of power generation are a burden for the operators. The legislation compensates for that, with higher feed-in tariffs since 2004. |
| Greece | A new decree was put forward for public consultation on residual flow and water continuity which would threaten the future of SHP in Greece and also affect some existing plants. Continuous water flow is difficult to achieve in Greece where rivers are seasonal – they dry up during summer months - and do |

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| | not even have any HP plants. |
| Hungary | Impact is not known yet due to the delays that existed in the transposition and implementation of the WFD and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan. |
| Italy | Impact is not known yet due to the delays that existed in the transposition and implementation of the WFD. |
| Latvia | The proclamation of the WFD has introduced a list of forbidden rivers which has impeded dramatically the development of SHP (217 watercourses or their reaches). |
| Lithuania | The proclamation of the WFD has introduced a list of forbidden rivers which has impeded dramatically the development of SHP (170 watercourses or their reaches). A large number of them do not cross existing conventional protected areas. |
| Netherlands | Existing lock complexes and river cribs could be used for new plants, strongly limiting any impact. |
| Poland | The WFD is a significant argument for hydropower opposers who make granting the water legal consent (water use concession) ever more difficult and struggle for a moratorium on hydropower plants erection. |
| Romania | The development will be probably lower than expected. |
| Slovenia | Impact on SHP could be significant. By letting each country implement measures according to their national characteristics, “environmentalists” have found a way to raise the bar on hydro so high that they eventually negatively affect the project’s economy. In December 2009 the Slovenian government adopted a Decree for the new calculation of residual flow that has no scientific ground and is deadly for any future SHP project. |
| Spain | The WFD is generally and systematically used against SHP, either to prevent the approval of new SHP plants or to complicate the operation of existing ones. The WFD leaves much room for interpretation, which in the case of Spain is used by the authorities against SHP in a more or less arbitrary way. |
| Sweden | If suggested actions are implemented this will most likely lead to less new SHPPs being built. Production from existing hydropower may decrease but this will only be known only following a trial in Swedish court. |