



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



Session A: Water Management Report back

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Participation and contribution by all actors and stakeholders are necessary

- **We had presentations by 5 countries**
- **Participants from business sector, professional organisations, universities, env. NGOs**
- **Making full information available is critical to delivering policy success**
- **Stakeholders/users/consumers/households
? victims!**



Sustainable water resources management provides the basis for adaptation

- We are learning to live with natural processes – *making space for rivers*, creating multifunctional dams and innovating, harvesting dew and fog
- But... Spain: 1200 m deep wells using oil drilling technology to fossil water



Sustainable water resources management provides the basis for adaptation

- **Improving water efficiency is key - it will buy time as we plan and understand more**
- **A European-led programme on water saving and recycling? – This needs to involve less leakage in supply systems and less water use, more efficient appliances and new housing systems (UK)**



A successful adaptation strategy needs a common and integrated approach

- **This is developing top down and bottom up**
- **E.g. Portugal and Spain new x-cutting climate bodies at national level**
- **Spatial planning, integrated solutions (NL, UK)**
- **But some gaps e.g. agriculture, food and the energy-water interface with infrastructure and utility systems**



Current EU Policy provides tools for adaptation

- Existing policy instruments and processes starting point but have to be developed
- WFD powerful core
- Regulatory assessment of all Directives for climate change and water impacts
- Extend cross compliance principle?
- EU level leadership needed – can't resolve all policy conflicts at River Basin level



The user pays - information on costs is needed to develop financing mechanisms

- **Who pays for what and how? - Wide variation across EU (Income tax, property tax, insurance, meter charges, abstraction license charges, property rights below/above ground, trading rights...)**
- **So developing ideal market mechanisms to recover costs is going to be very difficult**



**This is the front line – if we can't sort out
climate change water adaptation issues,
we will fail on the whole agenda!**



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Thank you for your attention.

