

# *EU acquis communautaire and the Protocol on Water and Health - synergies and added value*

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# European Union and Protocol

- Fairly overlapping membership
  - 15 Parties-MS and 10 Signatories-MS
  - Autonomous state-parties on voluntary basis
- Strong commitment and similar ambitions in environmental matters
- Basic principles in common
- Legally binding obligations of diverse nature

# European Union vs Protocol

<b>POLICY FEATURE</b>	<b>EUROPEAN UNION</b>	<b>PROTOCOL ON WATER AND HEALTH</b>
Statutory provisions	Supra-national	National only
Enforcement measures	Judicial	Consultative
Vertical policy tools	Statutory provisions & extensive infrastructure	Target setting and review
Horizontal policy tools	Environmental Health Action Plan	Principal feature of PWH
Development-assistance	Impressive funding internally EUWI externally	Project Facilitation Mechanism
Driving force	Huge	Modest
Flexibility	Modest	Fair

# Cases for synergy

- **Drinking Water**

**Principle: access for all to wholesome DW**

**European sectoral agenda:** quality standards, point of compliance, monitoring requirements, remedial actions and restrictions of use, derogations...and funding

**Protocol is a competent instrument to address also:**

equitable access; sustainability; water related diseases; fixing vulnerable resources; water safety planning; WRD surv; authentic measures of water quality improvement; small scale systems; information and involvement of the public.

**Battery of Protocol tools and approaches:** target setting and revision; prioritisation; intersectoral coordination; bringing policymakers and the public up to date, etc.

# More cases for synergy

- **Sanitation** – UWWTD + small communities; level of service; equitable access
- **Surface waters** – Bathing water directive and WFD river basin management agenda + WRD surveillance, prioritisation through target setting
- **Groundwaters** – WFD Integrated water resources management + vulnerable drinking water and thermal water resources agenda, informed funding allocation
- **Environmental impacts of projects** – EIA and SEA directives + special (e.g. public health) considerations
- **Environmental data** – reporting obligations + technical and theoretical contribution and retrieval of meaningful analyses and assessments

# Where Protocol may be the main driver

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- Enclosed bathing waters
- Coverage by community water supplies and equitable access
- Sanitation in remote/sparsely populated areas
- Water related diseases

# Enclosed bathing (pool&spa) waters

Not identified by EU

Health related issues to be addressed

Legislation on and implementation of

- registry/licensing of designers;
- authorization of construction and engineering plans;
- technologies and materials permitting;
- bathers' load, water exchange and water quality standards;
- pool safety (health risks reduction)

# Drinking water and sanitation to all

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Issues vaguely or not at all addressed by the European law and policy

- quantitative coverage
- equitable access (accessibility and affordability)
- concern for the vulnerable and excluded



# Water related diseases

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- Surveillance and Early Warning
- Legal system addressing the issue
- Competent institutional structure
- Live coordination

A clear subject for close cooperation and common policy development

# Principal basis of Protocol

- Cross-sectoral cooperation
  - To sensibly realize gov't responsibility
  - To ensure broad coverage and involvement
  - To ensure health priorities in (water) development
  - To guarantee consistency of programmes and match stakeholders interests
  - To safeguard observance of Protocol principles throughout the legislation and implementation
- Core group to direct and oversee
  - As wide as reasonable involvement of gov't departments, agencies and NGOs

# Extension policy

- Recourse to EU assistance
  - Investment and aid in infrastructure
  - Support of democratic progress
  - Policy dialogues
- Making use of the Protocol to pioneer non-infrastructure assistance
  - Project Facilitation
  - Target setting
  - Integrated Water Management
  - Capacity building

# EU and PWH – compete or complement

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- To more effectively organise co-operation in and between MSs
- To fine-tune implementation of provisions
- To make use of the Protocol's instruments in organising sensible allocation of development funding

**Unique excellences – mutual benefits**

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**Protocol on  
Water and Health**

**Acquis  
Communautaire**

**Thank you for the kind attention**