EUREAU

TFEWE
Under the protocole on Water & Health:

Views of water & wastewater service operators

600,000 operators in EU & EFTA countries

EUREAU Position on Climate Change White Paper

EU I - CC TASK FORCE – 27.07.2009 RS/BW/DP/ERM

About EUREAU

EUREAU is the European federation of national associations of drinking water suppliers and waste water services. Our members collectively provide sustainable water services to around 405 million European citizens. They reflect the full diversity of the European water services sector and represent both public and private operators. As the focus point of a European water network, EUREAU represents a unique concentration of technical, scientific and managerial knowledge and practical experience in water services.

1. EUREAU welcomes the White Paper on climate change adaptation

EUREAU welcomes the publication of the White Paper on climate change adaptation and the accompanying Commission Staff Working Document on Climate Change and Water, Coast and Marine Issues.

We appreciate that the White Paper recognises the need for adaptation and highlight the critical nature of water for the adaptation in the various sectors, namely health, agriculture and forestry, biodiversity, coastal zones and infrastructure.

However, we emphasise that in particular the functions of our members, water supplies and water and wastewater infrastructure should be given more prominence in the white paper due to their vital role in society and in the economy. It is essential that adaptation strategies are implemented now to make this vital infrastructure resilient to our changing climate.

England: sea level rise

(From Harward, 2008)

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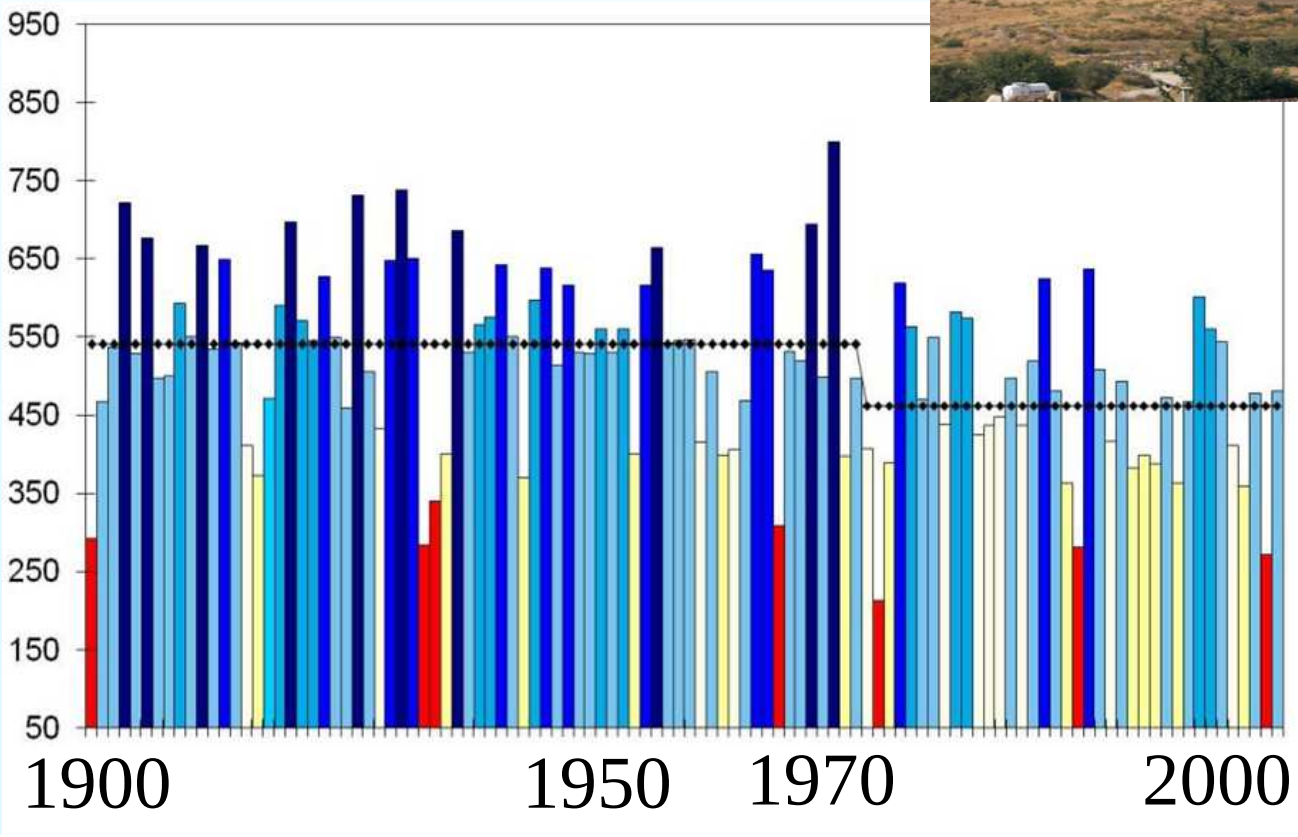
Cyprus: precipitations

(From Omorphos, 2009)



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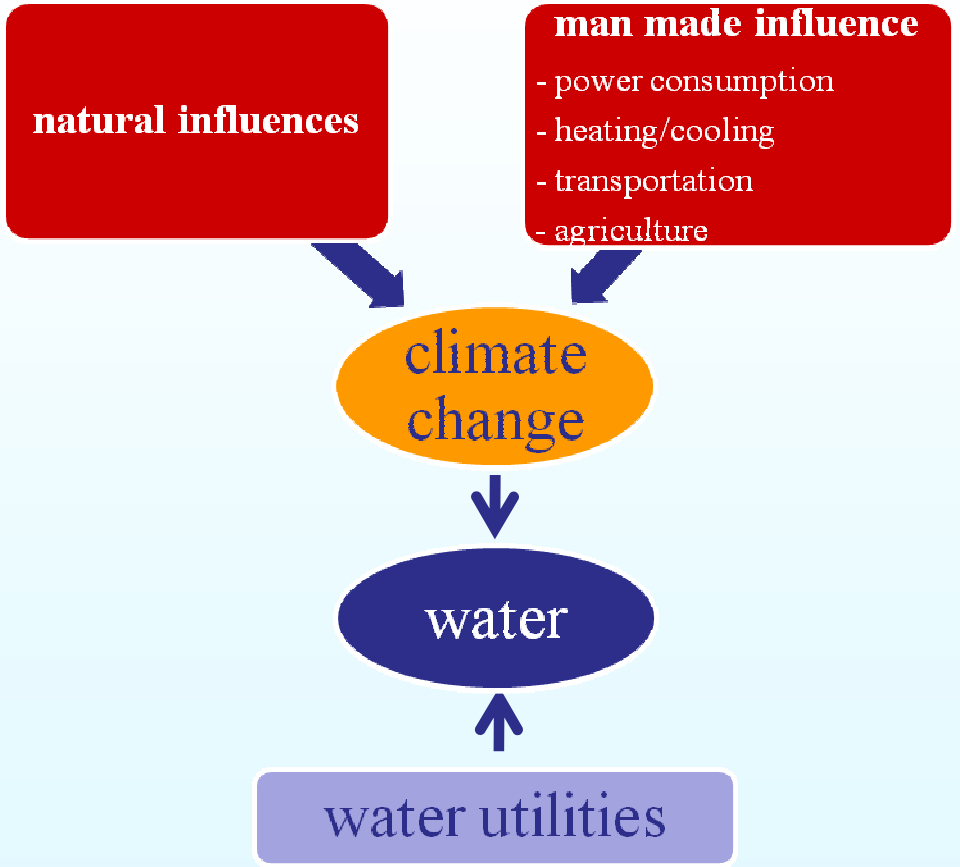
Climate, Water & people

(From Schneider, 2009)



Guidance on adaptation is needed

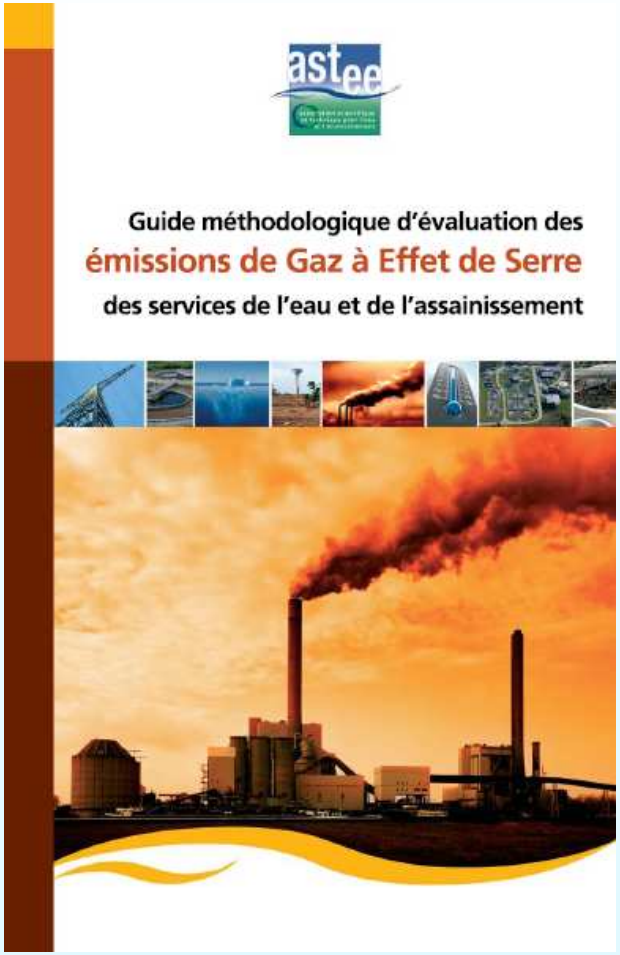
TFEWE work welcomed

Water sector adaptation measures
(from Harward, 2009)

- Water resource management planning
  - ⇒ Storage
  - ⇒ Demand management
  - ⇒ Source development
  - ⇒ Recycling and reuse
- Flood analysis and adaptation
  - ⇒ Prevent & store excess runoff sustainably
  - ⇒ Slow down the runoff
  - ⇒ Integrate rainfall prediction …
- Asset & network resilience
- Renewable energies – biogas
- Catchment based approaches

Mitigation

- National initiatives to evaluate the carbon impacts of the water sector
- Need for a ‘systematic check’ of the CC impacts & Water impact of policies
- For the water sector, least carbon impact and no regrets solutions should be prioritized



The vital socio-economic role of water

Uses of water resources (% of total abstractions – without cooling)

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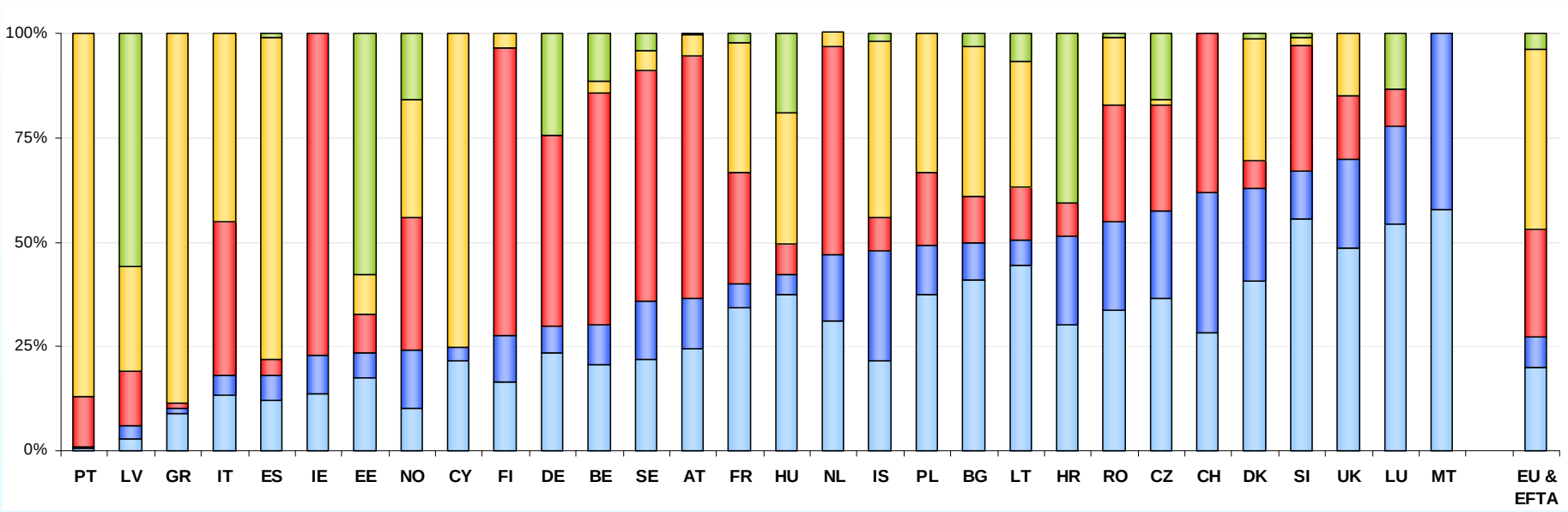

Drinking water services - non domestic uses	7.51%
Drinking water services - domestic uses	19.86%
Other uses (including self-supplied drinking water)	3.69%
Agriculture	43.16%
Industry (self-supplied)	25.77%

EEA-2009: Energy production accounts for 44% of EU water abstraction

Recommandations

- Controlling pollution at their very sources in both urban and rural areas
- Prioritisation of drinking water within the allocation hierarchy
- Increasing aquatic ecosystem resilience supports adaptation
- Adapting our Directives, Regulations & lifestyles to recognise climate change
- In the EU, the WFD provides a tool to aid adaptation
- However Integration of adaptation into other sectorial policies is essential
- Least carbon impact and no regrets solutions