



Burson • Marsteller

Water Scarcity and Drought

Last updated in October 2013

Latest Developments

Overall assessment of water scarcity developments and impact on golf in Q2 2013:

In Q3 2013 the Commission launched a public consultation on the revision of the Groundwater Directive and published its Seventh Report on the Implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Finally, the Joint Research Centre published its final report on the River Basin Network on the Water Framework Directive.

On 30 July 2013, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the revision of Annexes I and II of the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC), inviting stakeholders to provide their views on different policy options for the review of the Annexes that contain Europe-wide environmental quality standards for pollutants, a minimum list of pollutants and indicators for which Member States should consider establishing threshold values, and information to be provided by Member States on those pollutants and indicators. The results of the consultation, which closed on 22 October, and an impact assessment being carried out by DG Environment will provide the basis for the review of the Directive's Annexes.

[Commission webpage on Groundwater](#)

[Commission webpage on the review](#)

On 7 August 2013 the European Commission published its Seventh Report on the Implementation of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC). The report, which covers the period 2009/2010, shows improvements in collection and treatment even though big differences remain between Member States. However, only 11 of the 27 Member States had an adequate collecting and treatment system in place – despite the fact that the standards were set more than 20 years ago.

[Implementation Report](#)

[Press Release](#)

Following the entry into force of the Water Framework Directive in 2000, a network of Pilot River Basins, focusing on agriculture, was set up to provide feedback on practical issues related to the Directive's implementation. A final report on this exercise was published by the JRC in August 2013 documenting the experience gained by the network concerning the acceptance and implementation of the different measures by the farmers.

[Report](#)

[Press Release](#)

Impact for golf management

- Irrigation
- Water management



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Background

Last updated in July 2013:

Overall assessment of water scarcity developments and impact on golf in Q2 2013:

In Q2, the European Parliament adopted the Water Framework Directive and a non-binding resolution calling for the reduction of water consumption and auditing the state of Europe's water network ahead of the publication of the Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources in November 2013.

On Tuesday 2 July, the European Parliament adopted its report on the revision of the priority substances under the Water Framework Directive adding 12 new substances to the EU priority list of substances. The text adopted by the European Plenary reflects the compromise agreement reached with the Council earlier in April. It was endorsed by 646 votes in favour, 51 against and 14 abstentions. Once adopted by the Council, the amended Directive will become EU law.

[Press Release by the European Parliament](#)
[Adopted Text](#)

On Wednesday 3 July, the European Parliament adopted a non-binding resolution, drafted by MEP Richard Seeber (EPP, Austria) which calls for access to water to constitute a fundamental and universal right and for more efficient water usage. The resolution also stresses that the concept of sustainable tourism includes the conservation of water and calls for the training of tourism professionals in connection with the sustainable use of water, particularly in coastal areas and thermal belts. The resolution is an input to a "Blueprint to safeguard Europe's water resources" which the European Commission plans to publish in November.

[Press Release by the European Parliament](#)
[Adopted Text](#)

Last updated in April 2013:

Overall assessment of water scarcity developments and impact on golf in Q1 2013:

In Q1 the three institutions came to an agreement on the Water framework Directive's priority substances. 16 new substances have been added to the Directive to be monitored and some to be eventually phased out in water. Regarding the Blueprint for Safeguarding Europe's Waters, the Commission is now working on the various reports that it outlined in the Blueprint. These reports are expected to be published in the course of this and next year.

An informal agreement, or a first-reading agreement in legislative terms, was reached in April 2013 by the European Parliament, Council and Commission on the revision of the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD). In the agreed compromise text the various implementation dates were changed, allowing more time for the newly identified priority substance to achieve good surface water chemical status, including a 24 month transposition period for the Directive. The compromise text is expected to be adopted by the European Parliament in the July Plenary session. Subsequently it will be adopted by the European Council and will be then published in the Official Journal of the European Union.

[Commission webpage on the WFD](#)



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