



WssTP Workshop

“Buffer Strips and Buffer Zones – Targeting Water Quality”

Date: 23 February 2010, 9:30 – 17:30

Location: Copa-Cogeca Offices, Rue de Trèves 61, 1040 Brussels

The workshop is co-organised by EUREAU and Copa-Cogeca under the umbrella of the Water Supply and Sanitation Technology Platform, WssTP. Copa-Cogeca represents European farmers and European agri-cooperatives. Eureau is the European federation of national associations of drinking water suppliers and waste water services.

Workshop objectives

Buffer strips and zones on agricultural land already exist under national legislation as well as being an agri-environmental measure. New EU requirements define additional obligations concerning buffer strips and zones to be established on agricultural land. They should be designed to meet several EU legislative demands and not only to protect water resources, but also to reach other environmental goals such as protecting biodiversity. The aim of the workshop is to discuss farmers' possibilities and efforts to meet the requested water quality targets. This will be mirrored by water suppliers' expectations and needs. A technical approach will be taken, putting a focus on innovative solutions to fulfilling environmental requirements whilst maintaining economically viable farming activities. Examples of adapted management practices using new technologies to reduce pesticide as well as nutrients inputs will be presented.

Background

In forthcoming years, two pieces of EU legislation will play a key role in mitigating pollution deriving from the use of nutrients and pesticides in agriculture. A new GAEC standard as a cross compliance requirement under regulation (EC) No 73/2009 lays down the obligation to establish buffer strips along water courses no later than 2012. Those buffer strips have to be in line with the national rules of the Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC concerning fertilizer use near water courses.

The new Directive 2009/128/EC on the sustainable use of pesticides includes the obligation to set up National Action Plans with appropriate measures to protect the aquatic environment and drinking water supplies from the impact of pesticides. Such a measure is establishing buffer and safeguard zones along areas of surface water to reduce exposure of water bodies to spray drift, drain flow and run-off.

In parallel to this – under the Water Framework Directive – Member States have to prepare river basin management plans including programmes for measures (PoM). By 2012 at the latest these PoM have to be operational and in many of the plans presented to the public during 2009 buffer zones or strips in riparian areas are named as possible measures to achieve good water status by 2015.

PROGRAMME

Opening Session

9:30 – 10:00 *welcome notes*

Mr Pekka Pesonen, Secretary General of Copa-Cogeca
Mr Pierre-Yves Monette, Secretary General of EUREAU

SESSION I The European legislative framework

Moderator: **Mr Gerard Doornbos**, EUREAU

10:00 – 10:15 *The Water Framework Directive – The Common implementation strategy*
Mr Nicolas Rouyer, DG ENV, Unit D1 Protection of Water

10:15 – 10:30 *Buffer strips as cross compliance requirement under EC 73/2009*
Mr Emmanuel Petel, DG AGRI, Unit D3 Cross-compliance, food and feed legislation

10:30 – 10:45 *Buffer zones under the directive on sustainable use of pesticides*
Ms Birgit van Tongelen, DG SANCO, Unit D4 - Biotechnology, Pesticides & Health

10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

SESSION II How can new technologies and innovation support farmers to comply with legal requirements regarding water quality?

Moderator: **Mr Gerard Doornbos**, EUREAU

11:00 – 11:15 *Innovative and cost-effective solutions for water quality improvement in livestock systems and for monitoring water bodies*
Mr Carlos Póvoa, Águas de Portugal (AdP), Portugal

11:15 – 11:30 *Buffer zones for water quality protection*
Mr Jean-Joël Gril, Cemagref, France

11:30 – 11:45 *Research initiatives to evaluate and promote effective measures against diffuse pollution of waters*
Mr Marc Stutter, The Macaulay Land Use Research Institute, UK and representative of the EU COST Action 869

11:45 – 12:00 *Climate change and its impact on water quality – how can research contribute to mitigate the effect*
Ms Tiina Noges, Joint Research Centre (JRC), Rural, Water and Ecosystem Resources Unit (tbc)

12:00 – 12:15 *The US approach to improve water quality on agricultural land*
Ms Elisa Wagner, Agricultural Attaché, U.S. Mission to the EU

12:15 – 13:00 Discussion

Moderator: summary

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch break**

SESSION III How can applied research align water protection demands with agriculture?

Moderator: **Mr Panos Balabanis**, Deputy Head of Unit RTD I.3, DG Research

- 14:30 – 14:45 *The water management associations point of view*
Mr Juan Valero de Palma, EUWMA, European Union of Water Management Associations
- 14:45 – 15:00 *The fertilizers industries point of view*
Mr Christian Pallière, EFMA, European Fertilizer Manufacturers Association
- 15:00 – 15:15 *The plant protection industries point of view*
Mr Manfred Roettele, ECPA, European Crop Protection Association
- 15:15 – 15:30 Discussion
including collection of examples from the audience
- 15:30 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**
- 15:45 – 16:00 *The farmers point of view*
Mr Niklas Bergman, Copa-Cogeca (LRF)
- 16:00 – 16:15 *The water industries point of view*
Ms Claudia Castell-Exner, EUREAU
- 16:15– 17:15 Discussion and reflexions on future research needs to improve water quality while keeping European agriculture competitive
- 17:15-17:30 **Concluding remarks**
Ms Tania Runge, Coordinator of the WssTP pilot “Water and agriculture”
- 17:30 End of the workshop