



Recommendations for climate adaptation strategies

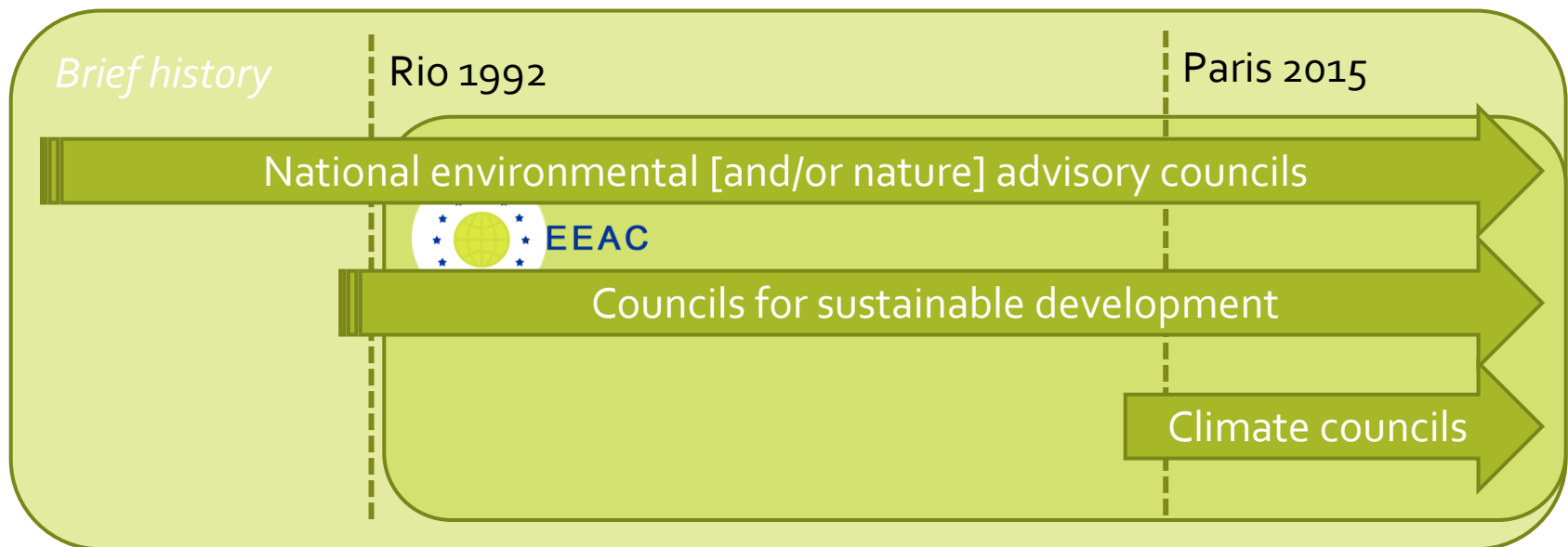
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European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory
Councils Network**

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EEAC: institutionalized advisory councils on environment, sustainable development and/or climate

Advisory councils [nowadays 18 members]:

- Established by law at the national or regional level...
- ... composed of experts and scientists and/or of representatives of stakeholders...
- ... giving advice to governments in relative independency...
- ... on plans, policies, legislation and or measures on environment, SD and/or climate.



The EEAC and adaptation policy



Sachverständigenrat
für Umweltfragen



CNADS



Wissenschaftlicher Beirat der Bundesregierung
Globale Umweltveränderungen



Rat für
NACHHALTIGE
Entwicklung



Raad
voor de leefomgeving
en infrastructuur



FRDO CFDD

FEDERAL COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BELGIUM



milieu & natuur



Vlaanderen
is omgeving



LE CONSEIL NATIONAL
DE LA TRANSITION
ÉCOLOGIQUE



Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia
**Advisory Council for
Sustainable Development**



EEAC WG ECOSYSTEM SERVICES [water, food, land...]

- 2017: work session “*Discussing the WFD in prelude to its 2019-review*”;
- 2018: exploratory report “*working on the WFD*”;
- 2018: work session “*The WFD: what happened and what’s its future?*”;
- 2019: work session “*The WFD: beyond the analysis of its partial success*”;
- 2019: conference on food systems by CADS “*Feeding on Future*”;
- 2020: work session “*The WFD fit for purpose – now what’s next?*”;
- 2020: work session “***Water quantity governance and climate change***”;
- 2021: presentation WGBU-report “*Rethinking Land in the Anthropocene*”;
- 2021: presentation OECD-report “*Better policies for food systems*”;
- 2021: work session “*preparing the CAP strategic plans*”;
- 2021 planned: work on food systems & farm-to-fork [Rli].



Exploratory recommendations for national adaptation strategies

➤ *A basic recommendation: consider your legal position.*

Climate Law, June 30th, art. 5.4.: “Member States shall [1] adopt and [2] implement national adaptation strategies and plans, [3] taking into consideration the Union strategy on adaptation [...] and based on [4] robust climate change and vulnerability analyses, [5] progress assessments and indicators, [...] [6] guided by the best available and most recent scientific evidence. [...] [7] take into account the [...] vulnerability of the relevant sectors, inter alia, agriculture, and of water and food systems, as well as food security, and [8] promote nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation. Member States shall [9] regularly update the strategies and [10] include the related updated information in the reports to be submitted under [...] Regulation [EU] 2018/1999.”

Implement this provision, on order to:

- *... Avoid any future supervisory action of the Commission.*
- *... Respect the standard of due diligence as defined.*

Exploratory recommendations for national adaptation strategies: “adopt”, “implement”, “assess”, “update” and “report”

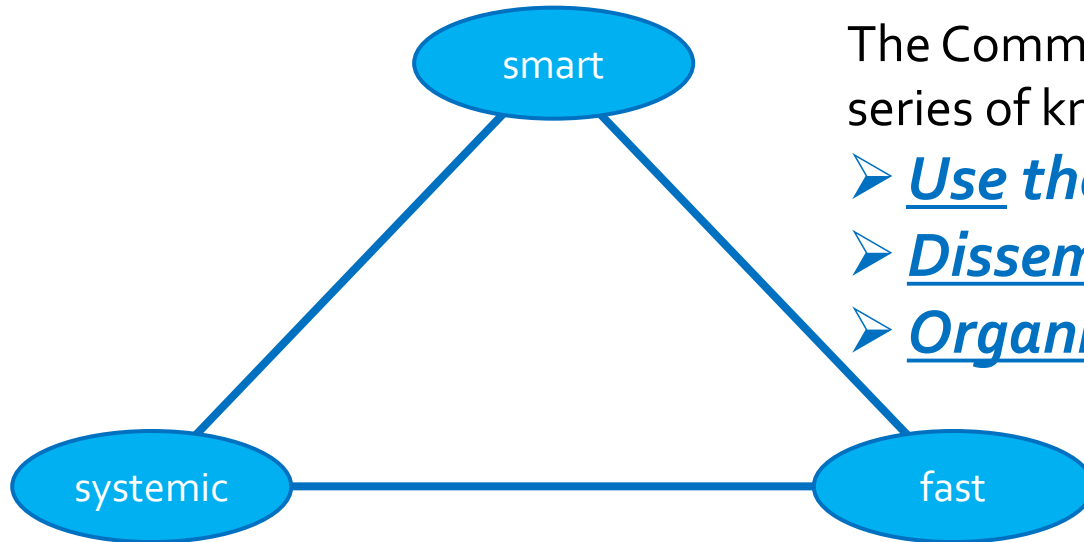
“Member States shall [1] adopt and [2] implement national adaptation strategies and plans, [...] [4] based on robust climate change and vulnerability analyses, [5] progress assessments and indicators, [...] [6] guided by the best available and most recent scientific evidence. [...] Member States shall [9] regularly update the strategies and [10] include the related updated information in the reports [...].”

Some very basic recommendations:

- Is a **government system** in place that can deliver, within due time, the requested strategies or plans, updates and reports?
 - *If not, improve the government system.*
- Is there a **governance system** that guarantees (national, regional, local) participation in the preparation and follow-up?
 - *If not, improve the governance system.*
- Are the **scientific and statistical communities** sufficiently equipped to produce in time robust analyses, assessments and indicators?
 - *If not, try and reorganize these communities.*

Exploratory recommendations for national adaptation strategies : “Take the EU adaptation strategy into consideration”

“Member States shall [...] [3] taking into consideration the Union strategy on adaptation [...].”



The Commission will provide in a series of knowledge instruments:

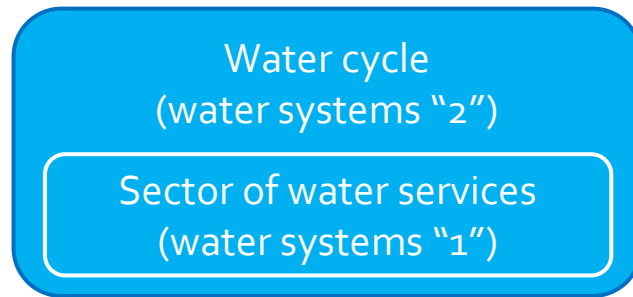
- Use these instruments;
- Disseminate to grass-roots;
- Organize risk-assessments.

- Reconsider budgetary mechanisms.
- Reassess all plans and programmes.

- Implement the WFD / Flood Directive fast and thoroughly.
- Reassess (national, regional, local) infrastructure policies.

Exploratory recommendations for national adaptation strategies : “Take into account the vulnerability of sectors”

“Member States shall [...] [7] take into account the [...] vulnerability of the relevant sectors, inter alia, agriculture, and of water and food systems, as well as food security, [...].”



Water systems “1” in the Adaptation Strategy:

- “Sharply reducing water use”.
 - “Improving water efficiency”.
 - “Promoting a transition to water saving technologies”.
 - “Pricing water correctly”.
 - “Water management plans”.
- ***Facilitate the water sector to adapt it’s business models.***
- ***Facilitate local authorities to address vulnerabilities.***

Exploratory recommendations for national adaptation strategies : “Introduce a more systemic approach when implementing the WFD”

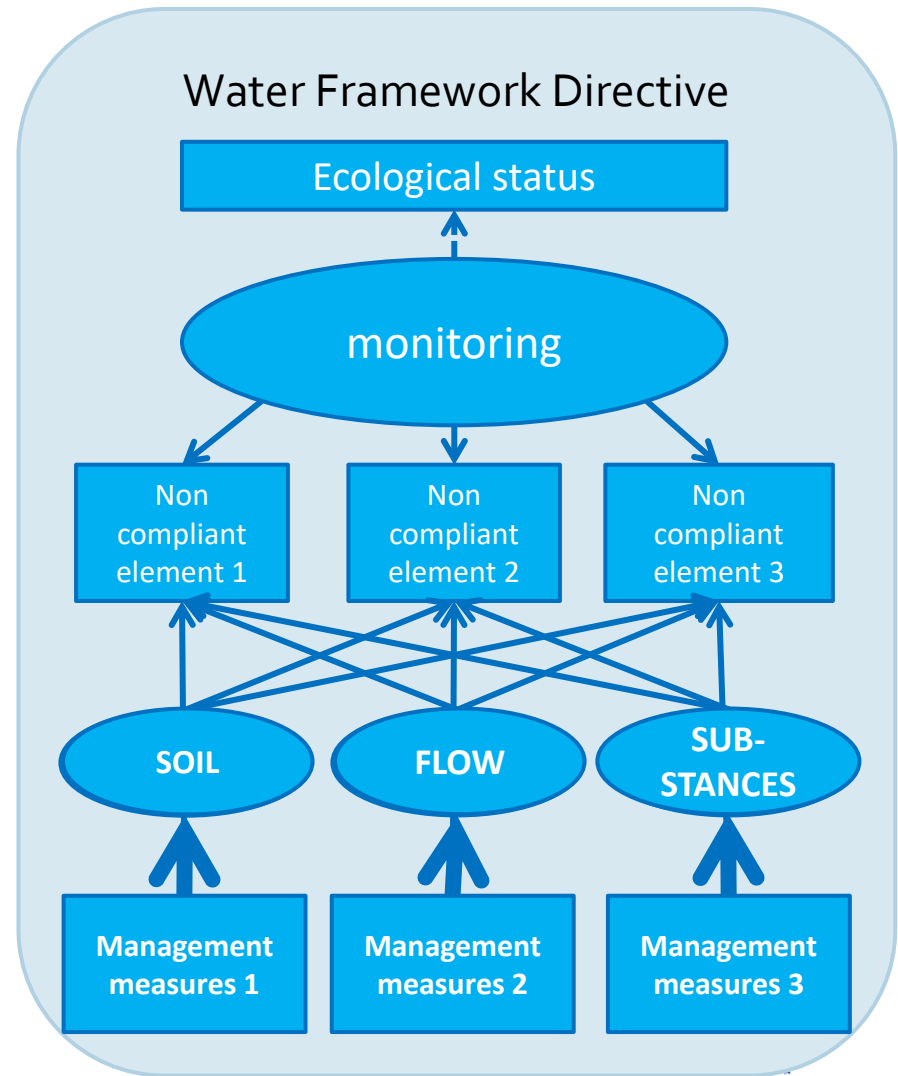
Water systems “2” in Adaptation Strategy:

- “Drought management plans”.
- “Increase the capacity of soils to purify water”

➤ *Improve business models:*

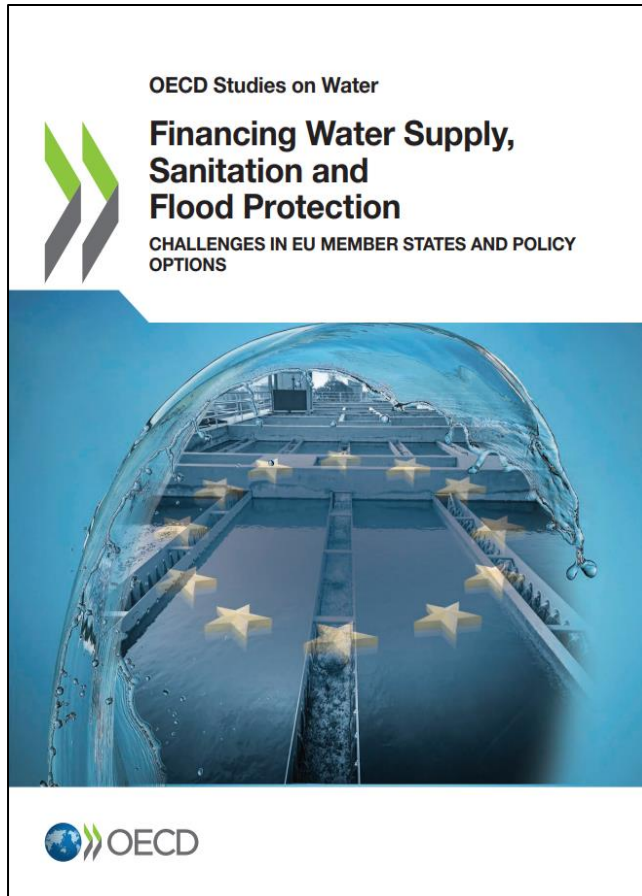
- *for Farmers*
- *for Foresters*
- *for Nature managers*
- *for Developers*

➤ *Improve local cooperation between land users.*



Exploratory recommendations for national adaptation strategies: “Promote nature-based solutions”

“Member States shall [...] [8] promote nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation. [...].”



- Consider green-blue infrastructure as part of infrastructure policy.
- Always compare the options “grey” and “green” infrastructure.
- ...
- When investing in local nature-based solutions, always consider the option of private co-financing.
- ...
- Consider re-using urban waste water for irrigating the “nature” of local nature-based solutions.

Exploratory recommendations towards the Commission

Climate Law, June 30th:

- Consideration n° 31: “*The Union should seek to create a favorable regulatory environment for national policies and measures put in place by Member States to adapt to climate change.”*
- Art. 5.5.: “*By 30 July 2022, the Commission shall adopt guidelines setting out common principles and practices for the identification, classification and prudential management of material physical climate risks when planning, developing, executing and monitoring projects and programmes for projects.”.*

Adaptation strategy, p. 3: “*Given the systemic nature [...] adaptation action will be implemented in an integrated manner with other European Green Deal initiatives such as [*] the Biodiversity Strategy, [*] Renovation Wave, [*] Farm to Fork Strategy, [*] the Circular Economy and [*] Zero Pollution Action Plans, [*] Forest Strategy, [*] Soil Strategy, [*] Smart and Sustainable Mobility Strategy, and [*] Renewed Sustainable Finance Strategy.”.*

➤ ***Please, do it!***

➤ ***Improve the transboundary cooperation on river basins.***



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