



EUDA Workshop Brussels – 3 November 2010
“Green innovations keep the European dredgers at global leading edge”

EU environmental policy context marine and coastal areas

Birgit Snoeren

**European Commission
DG Environment**

DGENVD2 Marine Unit



Evolution of EU law to protect the coasts and seas

- **EU legislation progressively in force in many relevant areas:**
 - Urban waste water, nitrates, chemicals
 - Bird and habitat directives, N2000 network
- **More integrated management of human activities**
 - EIA Directive (1985), SEA Directive (2001)
 - Water Framework Directive (2000): coastal waters
 - Recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (2002); ICZM Protocol Barcelona Convention (2010)
 - Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008)
- **Policy coordination frameworks**
 - EU Integrated Maritime Policy (2007>)
 - White Paper Adaptation to Climate Change (2009)



Objective of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive



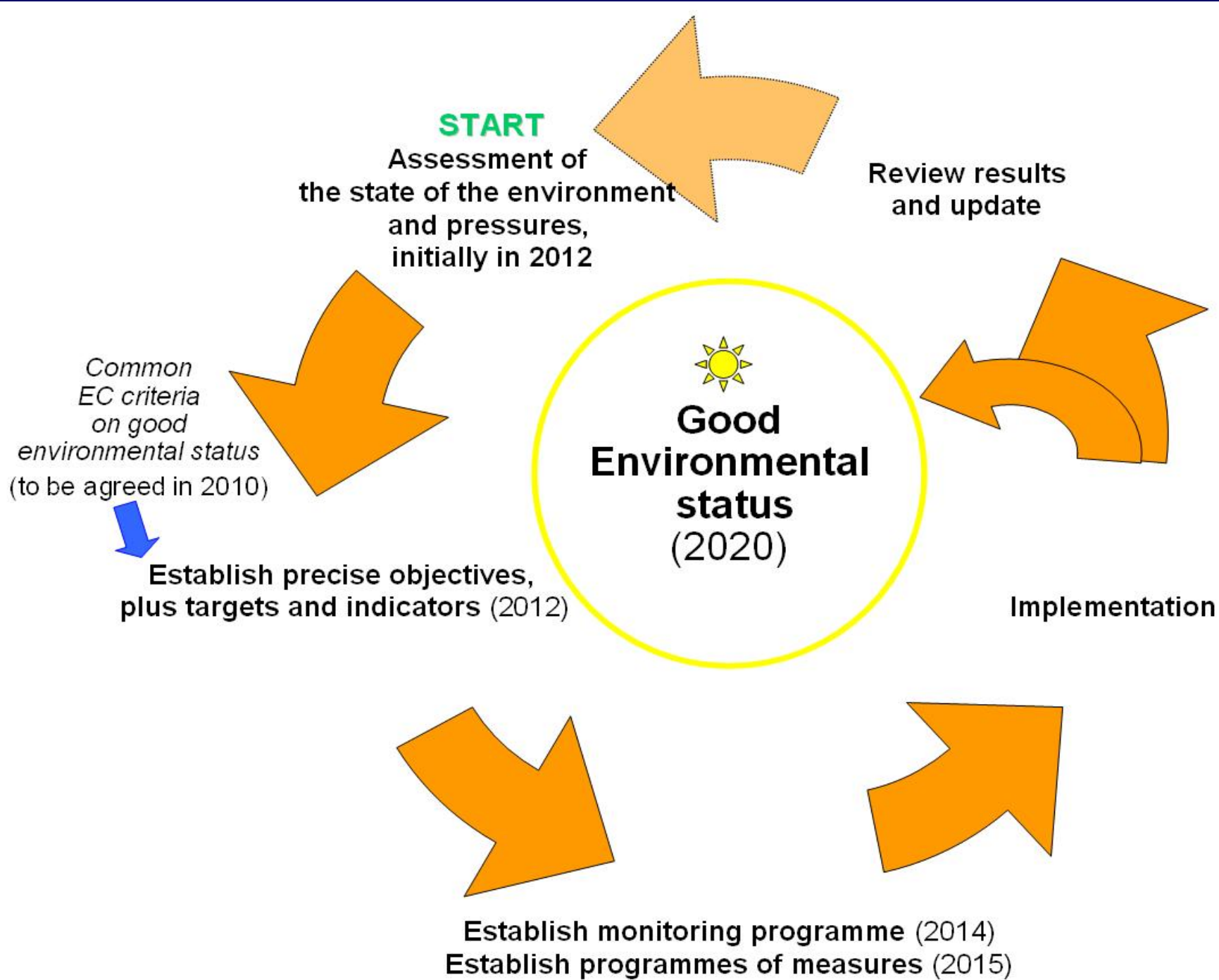
The Directive establishes a framework within which:

- the EU Member States shall take the necessary measures to achieve or maintain
- good environmental status in the marine environment
- by the year 2020 at the latest



Key deliverable: « **Marine Strategies** »

- Each EU Member State must progressively put in place its own “Marine Strategy” (action plan), consisting of several steps
 - Assessment, specific objectives, target formulation (2012)
 - Programme of measures (2015)
 - Adaptive management (6yrs cycle)
- They must cooperate among themselves and also with neighbouring countries...
- ... where possible within Regional Sea Conventions





Good Environmental Status

- **Ecologically diverse and dynamic oceans and seas which are clean, healthy and productive**
- **Use of marine environment at a sustainable level, safeguarding the potential for uses and activities by current and future generations**
- **Ecosystem-based approach**
- **Integration of environmental concern into the different policies which have an impact on marine environment (i.e. CFP)**



Descriptors of Good Environmental Status

- Biological diversity
- Non-indigenous species
- Population of commercial fish/shellfish
- Elements of marine food web/reproduction
- Eutrophication
- Sea floor integrity
- Alteration of hydrographical conditions
- Contaminants
- Contaminants in seafood
- Marine litter
- Energy incl. underwater noise

COMMISSION DECISION

of 1 September 2010

on criteria and methodological standards on good environmental status of marine waters

(notified under document C(2010) 5956)

(Text with EEA relevance)

(2010/477/EU)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to the Directive 2008/56/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 June 2008 establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy (Marine Strategy Framework Directive) ⁽¹⁾, and in particular, Article 9(3) thereof,

Whereas:

(1) The criteria for the achievement of good environmental status are the starting point for the development of coherent approaches in the preparatory stages of marine strategies, including the determination of characteristics of good environmental status and the establishment of a comprehensive set of environmental targets, to be developed in a coherent and coordinated manner in the framework of the requirement of regional cooperation.

(2) The Commission has consulted all interested parties, including regional sea conventions, in particular on the scientific and technical assessment prepared by the Task Groups set up by the Joint Research Centre and the International Council on the Exploration of the Seas to support the development of criteria and methodological standards.

(3) One major finding of such scientific and technical work is that there is a substantial need to develop additional scientific understanding for assessing good environmental status in a coherent and holistic manner to support the ecosystem-based approach to management. An improved scientific knowledge needs to be developed, in particular through the Communication 'A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research. A coherent European Research Area framework in support of a sustainable use of oceans and seas' ⁽²⁾, in the framework of the Communication 'Europe 2020 A strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth' ⁽³⁾ and in coherence

⁽¹⁾ OJ L 164, 25.6.2008, p. 19.

⁽²⁾ COM(2008) 534 final.

⁽³⁾ COM(2010) 563 final.

with other Union legislation and policies. It is also appropriate to integrate later on in the process the forthcoming experience to be developed at national and regional level in the implementation of the preparatory stages of the marine strategies listed in Article 5(2)(a) of Directive 2008/56/EC.

(4) It is therefore appropriate that the Commission revises this Decision in the framework of Article 25(3) of Directive 2008/56/EC. In addition to revising criteria, the further development of methodological standards is required, in close coordination with the establishment of monitoring programmes. This revision should be carried out as soon as possible after the completion of the assessment required in Article 12 of Directive 2008/56/EC, in time to support a successful update of marine strategies that are due by 2018 pursuant to Article 17 of that Directive, as a further contribution to adaptive management. This is coherent with the fact that the determination of good environmental status may have to be adapted over time, taking into account the dynamic nature of marine ecosystems, their natural variability, and the fact that the pressures and impacts on them may vary with the evolution of different patterns of human activity and the impact of climate change.

(5) The criteria for good environmental status build on existing obligations and developments in the context of applicable Union legislation, including Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy ⁽⁴⁾, which applies to coastal waters, as well as Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ⁽⁵⁾, Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds ⁽⁶⁾, and a number of instruments developed in the framework of the common fisheries policy, taking also into account, where appropriate, the information and knowledge gathered and approaches developed in the framework of regional conventions. As this Decision contributes to the further development of the concept of good environmental status of marine waters, it supports in relation to marine ecosystems the process to revise the biodiversity strategy of the European Union beyond 2010 and the Biodiversity Action Plan.

⁽⁴⁾ OJ L 327, 22.12.2000, p. 1.

⁽⁵⁾ OJ L 206, 22.7.1992, p. 7.

⁽⁶⁾ OJ L 20, 26.1.2010, p. 7.



NEW

(3) One major finding of such scientific and technical work is that there is a substantial need to develop additional scientific understanding for assessing good environmental status in a coherent and holistic manner to support the ecosystem-based approach to management. An improved scientific knowledge needs to be developed, in particular through the Communication 'A European Strategy for Marine and Maritime Research.



Some descriptors:

SEAFLOOR INTEGRITY (n°6)

- Physical damage and substrate characteristics
- Condition of benthic community

HYDROGRAPHICAL CONDITIONS (n°7)

- Spatial characterization of alterations
- Impacts of hydrographical changes

CONTAMINANTS (n°8)

- Concentration of contaminants
- Effects on eco-system components, occurrence

ENERGY INTRODUCTION (n°11) (noise)

- Distribution (temporal/spatial) of loud, low and mid frequency impulsive sound
- Continuous low frequency sound

NEXT: Commission staff working document to complement the Decision 1/9/2010. Use by MS in assessment, determination of GES, targets (2012)



The EU ICZM Recommendation (2002/413/EC)

Calls for:

A **strategic approach** to coastal zone management and planning. Aim: achieve sustainable development.

Based on common **principles**, reflecting good territorial **governance**. e.g. holistic approach across sectors, knowledge based approach, coordination between levels of governance, stakeholder involvement, public participation

Sets in motion:

A **process**:

- Development of National ICZM strategies, following a stock-take
- Reports to the Commission: February 2006
- Evaluation and Commission report to Council and European Parliament June 2007 (COM(2007)308)



Evaluation of the EU ICZM Recommendation: results (1)

- No need for a new or different instrument in the **short** term; Approach and Principles of EU ICZM Recommendation remain valid
- Further **support to *implementation*** needed:
 - More systematic comparative analysis and experience exchange
 - Strengthening the knowledge basis and use of information
- Continued need for coherent EU policies/legislation
- Review long-term need for ICZM instrument after 2008



Evaluation of the EU ICZM Recommendation: results (2)

● Priority themes for promotion of ICZM in the EU

Adaptation to coastal risks and the impacts of climate change => White Paper Climate Change adaptation COM(2009)147

provides for Guidance for Adaptation in coastal areas

(timing *tbc*, should build on Disaster prevention COM(2009) 82, Floods

Directive 2007/60/EC, EUrosion, study costs of coastal defence, **OURCOAST**

Cooperation in **regional seas** context, including maritime spatial planning: build on Marine Strategy Framework Directive 2008/56/EC, ICZM and existing regional seas structures

“Roadmap” for **maritime spatial planning** (25/11/2008, (COM(2008)791); pilot projects, 4 workshops in 2009, report: end 2010.



Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention)

Protocol contents:

- Common framework for ICZM in the Mediterranean
- Principles and objectives for ICZM
- Requires comprehensive strategies, series of tools to be used in coherent 'mix'
- Specific stipulations for certain coastal uses and/or values to be protected
- Geographic extent in principle out to territorial sea limit and on land limit of competent coastal units as defined by Member States

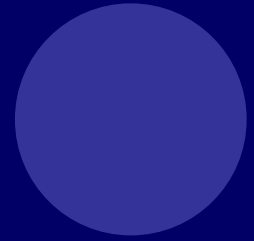


EU ratification: 13/9/2010

Entry into force: early 2011?

NB! Special attention for natural hazards, including coastal erosion and impacts of climate change

Art. 22: development of policies for the prevention of natural hazards. Vulnerability and hazard assessments, prevention, mitigation and adaptation measures



“No one-size fits all” ...

- Need for better capitalising on current practices (success-fail factors, preconditions): at least 350 cases in database
- Comparative analysis (policies, options, tools)
- Dissemination, Guidance

New dedicated action to support ICZM

Budget 1M€, Dec.2008-Feb.2012

Key themes include: Adaptation to coastal risks and climate change
Planning and land management instruments
Institutional coordination mechanisms
Information and communication





Regional action strategies for coastal zone adaptation to climate change

- Capitalization of knowledge and resources in the field of coastal protection

9

partners

- Development of Territorial Action Plans for adapting coastal zones to climate change, against erosion effects and submersion risk

2009-2012

- Definition of Sediment Management Plans (SMPs) for both off-shore and littoral deposits exploitation

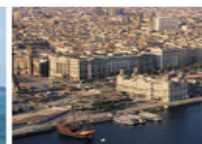
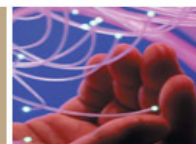
Budget:
1.9 M€

- Environmental Impact Assessment Protocols

- Training and coordination of the competent authorities (ICZM & planning tools).



Programme **Med**





BaltCICA Project



- **Adaptation in the Baltic Sea Region:** prepare regions and municipalities to cope with a climate change
- Assess costs and benefits of adaptation in case studies
- Integrate latest CC research results for cost-effective adaptation strategies which focus on territorial development
- 24 partners involved from 02/2009 to 01/2012
- Total budget: € 5,3 million



Follow-up to the EU ICZM Recommendation


“Working at different scales and across administrative and sectoral boundaries remains a formidable challenge, but is central to achieving integration”

An Evaluation of ICZM in Europe (COM(2007)308)

Issues:

- Principles still valid, but formal reporting deadlines ended 2006. New Member States reports requested **December 2010**
- Quickly evolving policy and legal context (increasing activity at sea - Marine Strategy Framework Directive, maritime spatial planning; Protocol in Mediterranean)

Timeline follow-up to the EU ICZM Recommendation:

- Early reflection group (Working group of EU ICZM Expert group)
- Start of ‘impact assessment’ process 2010,
 **joint-up process Maritime Spatial Planning/ ICZM**
wider public consultation (Dec)Jan.2011
- Possible Commission proposal **2011**



● Thank you

MARINE STRATEGY FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm

INTEGRATED COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/iczm/home.htm>

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/adaptation/index_en.htm



EU ICZM Recommendation: **Sustainable development**

“Sustainability” aims ICZM Recommendation :

- **ecosystem approach, sustainable resources use**
- **climate change effects**
- **sound coastal protection, including of cultural heritage**
- **sustainable economic/job opportunities**
- **a functioning social and cultural system in local communities**
- **access to the coast - for leisure / landscape**
- **cohesion (accessibility remote coastal settlements)**



EU ICZM Recommendation: **Principles**

8 Principles, defining ICZM:

- (a) a **broad** thematic and geographic perspective
- (b) a **long-term** perspective
- (c) **adaptive** management and sound **knowledge basis**
- (d) **local specificity**
- (e) working with **natural processes**, “carrying capacity”
- (f) **involving all the parties** concerned
- (g) support and involvement of relevant administrative bodies at national, regional and local level *
- (h) use of a **mix of instruments**, to facilitate **coherence** between sectoral policy objectives and coherence between planning and management.

* Chapter V of the Recommendation: Cooperation with neighbouring countries and at regional sea level