

International Commission for Elbe protection (IKSE-MKOL)

BACKGROUND

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) 2000/60/EC is the basic political document for water protection in Europe. Most of the existing European legislative text was integrated with modern aspects of water protection to produce this Directive. According to the WFD, surface water, estuarine water and groundwater must be reviewed as a single unit and in geomorphologic basin borders. Entry of the Czech Republic and Poland to the European Union (EU) has resulted in the whole of the Elbe basin is under the legislative agency of WFD. <http://elise.bafg.de/servlet/is/1537/>



Picture from:

<http://elise.bafg.de/servlet/is/1537/>

PROBLEMS

- An objective of the WFD is to achieve a good status of all rivers, lakes, coastal water and groundwater in the area of EU by the year 2015.
- For this purpose River Basin Management Plans and Programmes of Measures for each basin area must be completed by 2009.
- A basic step for the creation of plans and programmes is an Analysis of the current situation – from an ecological, economical and social point of view. The Analysis should have been completed by end of the year 2004 and a report sent in to the European Commission by 22nd March 2005.

SOLUTIONS

- One of the important principles of the WFD is the common coordinated process of all Member States situated in the international basin area for water protection activities.
- The International Elbe basin encompasses the area of the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Austria. The Elbe basin was divided into 10 coordinating areas. IKSE-MKOL should coordinate the cooperation for WFD implementation.
- EU Member States must announce to European Commission authorities, responsible for administrative rules exercise of WFD. The Czech Republic, Germany, Austria and Poland gave this information in June 2004.
- General information on competitive authorities is also written in the Report for International Commission for Elbe protection due to Article 15, paragraph 2 of WFD (Report 2005).
<http://elise.bafg.de/servlet/is/1537/>

PICTURE: MASARYK LOCK IN USTI NAD LABEM IN ELBE RIVER WITH STREKOV CASTLE ON THE LEFT



BENEFITS

- The main principle of WFD is an intensive public participation to all implementation phases.
- Therefore IKSE-MKOL publish non-periodically the “Informative paper MKOL”, which will inform the public about results and coordination for effective WFD implementation in the International Elbe basin.
- Other institutions and NGO can also contribute to paper publishing and apply their interests.
- <http://elise.bafg.de/servlet/is/7187/>

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