

EURASIAN WATER CONFERENCE

3rd ASEM Seminar on Urban water management

Urban solutions for global challenges

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Water and climate change: Vision from the European Commission

Marta Moren Abat
DG for Environment
European Commission

Consideration of the likely impacts of climate change

- Greater flood risks are forecast in coming decades in excess or in default.
- The climate change context and the main milestone: There is unprecedented, international support to address climate change – The Paris Agreement.
- • The Paris Agreement introduced true political parity between climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts.
- National policy, local and regional plans, and public and private finance are tailored for dealing with the effects of climate change on water availability for food, energy and well-being.

Water and Climate change: Explicitly included in the WFD and FD

- ✓ Paragraph 2, in the preamble – "Floods are natural phenomena which cannot be prevented. However, some human activities (such as increasing human settlements and economic assets in floodplains and the reduction of the natural water retention by land use) and **climate change** contribute to an increase in the likelihood and **adverse impacts of flood events.**"
- ✓ Art. 4 of FD – **studies on long-term developments, in particular impacts of climate change** on the occurrence of floods, could be considered in an **assessment of potential risks.**

Impacts of climate change

- Climate change is, in particular, having substantial effects on the water cycle. The effects of this are clear all over the globe. **Water availability** in South Africa, extended droughts in the Horn of Africa, floods and droughts in Asia, forest fires in Europe, floods in the US.
- **Climate change impacts**, and in particular, water scarcity and increased number and intensity of floods and droughts are important issues that affect an increasing number of regions worldwide.
- **Promoting collaborative and sustainable management arrangements** of freshwater resources is important for better adapting to climate change impacts, reconciling competing interests and for preventing political tensions, instability or even conflicts related to the use and management of shared water resources.
- The **Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals** require our determined action to address water challenges and combat climate change.

Water policy and climate change

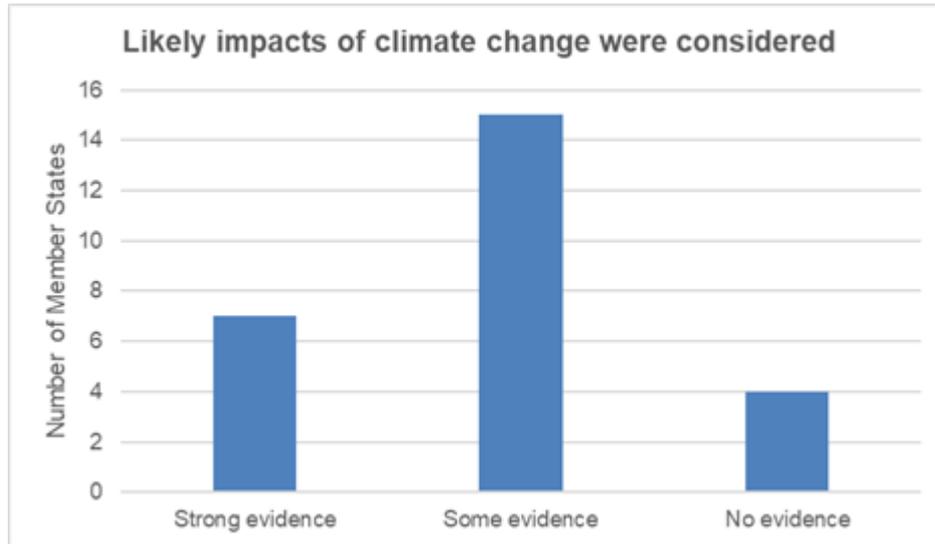
- The **EU has a comprehensive and ambitious water policy** in place that, if fully implemented, would ensure **sound flood risk management, integrity of water ecosystems and provide sufficient amount of high quality water** to European citizens and economy.
- **Droughts** are a threat to agriculture, inland navigation, energy production and environmental quality, and to continuity in industrial and drinking water utilities. Climate change and increasing water demands will make this worse. EU policy has acknowledged this problem and actions are taken accordingly.
- EU Member States have drafted, or are drafting, their **National Adaptation Strategies**. **Water** is the priority topic in almost all of these National Adaptation Strategies. Depending on the geography and climate of the Member State, the strategy focuses on droughts or floods.

Water policy and climate change

- **Effective implementation of EU water policy** is a key element for the EU to be better prepared to deal with the impacts of climate change. So far the focus has been strongly on quality but with climate change impacts, **water quantity** will need to become more prominent. It is therefore clear that more efforts are needed.
- The **EU Adaptation Strategy** underlines the importance of **mainstreaming adaptation to climate change throughout** EU and Member State **policies and investments**. Key actions identified in the Strategy include **climate-proofing investments** and ensuring more **resilient infrastructure** including **green infrastructure**.

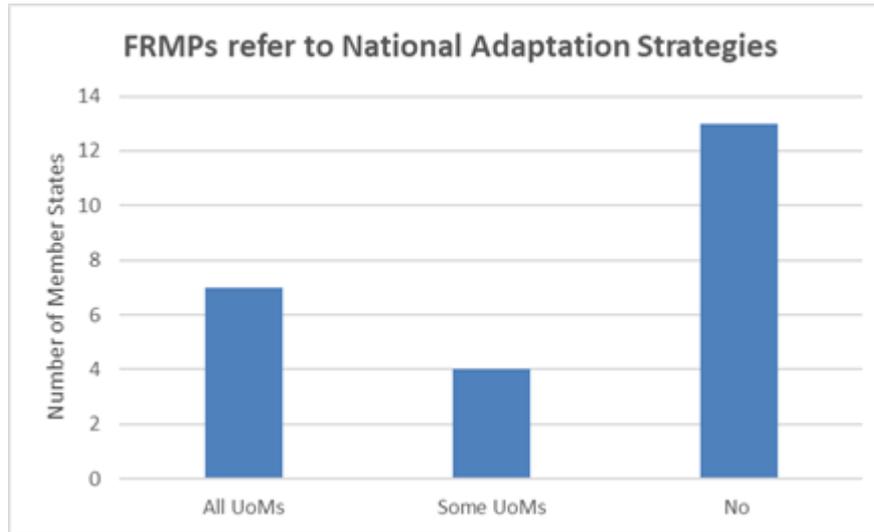
Addressing climate change in the flood risk management plans

A high share of EU MS considered at least some aspects of climate change: the FRMPs of eight Member States provided strong evidence that climate impacts were considered; those for 13 Member States provided some evidence.



Reference to the National Climate Change Adaptation Strategies

Information from EU MS and their FRMPs: A high share of EU MS considered at least some aspects of climate change: the FRMPs of 8 EU MS provided strong evidence that climate impacts were considered; 13 Member States provided some evidence.



Measures to address climate change

- The FRMPs in several Member States identified measures that explicitly address climate change.
- One area for such measures is natural water retention measures (NWRMs). They are nature-based solutions that can help to adapt to climate change by preserving or restoring ecosystems.
 - identifying locations to work with natural processes can help improve resilience to climate change.
 - Increase water retention in forests includes the analysis of retention in connection with the adaptation of forests and forestry to climate change.
 - afforestation measures and water retention measures, including the construction of reservoirs, are appropriate tools for minimising the impacts of climate change on the likelihood and potential adverse consequences of flooding.
- working with insurance making the best use of risk information under a changing climate.
- Local and adapted measures

Thank you for your attention

