

# **Dr. Pierre Strosser: “Implementing the economic Elements of the Water Framework Directive – Issues and Options”**

## **Abstract**

The European Union Water Framework Directive adopted in 2000 is promoting the use of economic principles, tools, methods and instruments in water management and policy. Overall, Member States are asked to:

- Undertake an economic analysis of water uses;
- Support the selection of measures for reaching good water status with a cost-effectiveness analysis;
- Promote an adequate recovery of the costs of water services by water uses and water pricing that enhances the sustainability of water resources.

Also, whenever considered relevant, economic (cost-benefit) analysis can be called for justifying specific time (reaching good water status within a longer time frame) and objective (reaching lower objectives than good water status) derogation.

Member States have already embarked in delivering the first milestone for its economic components, i.e. the economic analysis that is part of the characterisation of river basin districts to be sent to the European Commission (EC) by March 2005. The review of on-going activities in EU Member States stresses that significant efforts have taken place so far for ensuring adequate implementation of the economic elements of the WFD. But further improvements and shifts in the focus of the analysis are required for ensuring it fulfils the basic principles of integration, proportionality, policy-relevance, gradualism, participatory and transparency.

## **Curriculum Vitae**

Current position: Freelance consultant in environment and water policy, integrated river basin management, economic and institutional issues

Focus of professional responsibilities: economic assessments applied to water systems, use of economic instruments (pricing & taxes, markets), implementation of the economic elements of the Water Framework Directive, integrated river basin planning, integration of economics into decision support systems for river basin management, benchmarking in the water sector

Past experience: Researcher/project leader at the International Water Management Institute, Lahore-Pakistan (1991-1997): farming system analysis, irrigation management, water markets, integrated analysis of irrigation systems - Researcher at the Irrigation Division of Cemagref (1997-1998): economic instruments, water markets, integrated analysis of irrigation/water resources systems - Economist at the European Commission, DG Environment (1998-2002): economic assessments for the Water Framework Directive, water pricing and charging, economic evaluation of environmental policies (water, waste), integration of agriculture and environmental policies

---

International Autumn Academy „Sustainability in River Basins – A Question of Governance“  
December 6-8, 2004, Berlin-Schmöckwitz, Germany

Organized by the Institute for Ecological Economy Research (IOEW)

Education: Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon, Ecole Nationale du Génie Rural, des Eaux et des Forêts, M.Sc in agricultural economics (Wye College, University of London), Ph.D. in water resources (Wageningen Agricultural University).

**Contact**

Ecologic - Institute for International and European Environmental Policy, ACTeon Consulting

(D/F)

Telephone: 0033 3 89 77 35 74

E-Mail: [acteon.conseil@wanadoo.fr](mailto:acteon.conseil@wanadoo.fr)