

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

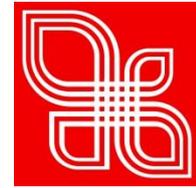
VISEGRAD GROUP COUNTRIES AND BULGARIA AND ROMANIA

Warsaw, March 22, 2017.

We, the Ministers and High Representatives responsible for water management in the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Republic of Poland, the Slovak Republic, Republic of Bulgaria, and Romania present on 22 March, 2017 at the Ministerial meeting in Warsaw, adopt joint statement on future implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).

Bearing in mind the commitments taken by us in the connection with the adoption of the EU Council conclusions on Sustainable Water Management on 17th October 2016, once again we would like to underline the following:

1. Reiterate that the basis for a proper sustainable water management is the river basin management in line with the provision of the WFD.
2. Water resources in Europe are certainly subjected to pressures caused by many factors. We are facing challenges on the one hand connected with the decrease of the available water resources and affected water status, on the other hand, with the increase of the water demand, as well as the intensification of the extreme hydrological and meteorological phenomena, such as floods and droughts, due to the climate changes.
3. We are confident that the issues related to the sustainable management of water resources in Europe are becoming increasingly important, and in the future the water deficiency together with the effects of natural disasters can cause more and more dangerous social, economic and political consequences.
4. Facing the challenges posed by increasing pressure on water resources, impact on water status and climate change effect in Europe, we believe that it is necessary to continue to maintain the ambitious goals set by the WFD related to water protection and sustainable water management, such as ensuring the appropriate quality and quantity of water for all uses.
5. We recognize that our actions should be tailored to the regional specific needs and conditions, due to diverse geographical, environmental, hydrological and climate conditions as also stated in EU Council conclusions. The sustainable water management should apply to all related aspects, including economic ones, in accordance with the principle of sustainable development.



6. We emphasize that EU should not resign from the ambitious goals of current water policy. However, on the way to achieve the good water status in EU, in order to meet the demand, we should keep in mind the necessity of setting realistic goals and timeframes and the need for integration of current water policy with other EU policies.
7. We call on the European Commission to create appropriate coherence between the objectives of the sustainable water management and other relevant sectors in accordance with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda as well.
8. We highlight the importance of the fact, that shaping the water policy must take into account the objectives at all global, regional and local level including transboundary issues.
9. We highlight the importance of cross sectorial funding of the EU to contribute the achievement of the WFD goals.
10. We share the opinion that the ~~current~~ EU water legislation requires revision, which would take into account the high level of ambition, as well as the holistic approach in sustainable water management, including the issue of the circular economy.

Accordingly, we commit ourselves to further cooperate in the future to ensure representation of a common position during the planned revision of the WFD and other documents affecting the development of the EU water policy.