How an ambitious Water Framework Directive* helped a River Basin Agency Solve a conflict?

…Many adjustments had to be explained and discussed

(*) EWFD
• **EWFD requirements by 2015:**
  1. Non degradation of waters;
  2. Achievement of good status, or ecological potential;
  3. Removal of hazardous substances

• **EWFD scheduled stages:**
  - Diagnosis as soon as 2005;
  - Public consultation in 2006 & in 2008;
  - Proving measures are suitable to achieve good status by 2009;
  - Ensure reporting on efforts made in this respect…
A River Basin Agency is integrating various stakeholders

THE WATER BASIN COMMITTEE

- local councillors
- anglers
- fish farming managers
- drinking water consumers
- manufacturers
- farmers
- irrigation managers
- hydroelectric energy producers
- tourists associations
- nature conservancy associations
- sand and gravel companies
- government representatives
- etc...
The River Basin Agency prepared a new 6 year program, according to previous practice:

• **decision process involving 3 college** of stakeholders (*State + Municipalities + Economy*);

• **levies charged on water** abstraction and pollution providing financial autonomy;

• **subsidies** for wastewater treatment, water resource preservation, drinking water supply, restoration of damaged water bodies…
Defining a new 6 year program became a challenge because of various opposite expectation such as:

- Some **economic stakeholders** asked for alleviated pollution charges;
- Local **communities** aim at lower price for public water service (inc. 15% levy for RBA);
- Solidarity with **rural municipalities** recently added to RBA’s burden;
- **State** representatives asked for a respect of delay of directives for fear of penalties;
- Equilibrium for **charges** Vs. **subsidies**, in between categories had to be improved...(ex. farmers...).
These conflicts had to be solved.

New EWFD requirements offered a way out, *(a diversion?)* as the following principles agreed everyone:

- Priority results-based objectives for the program;
- New contributors to be charged, 6% increased budget;
- New balance in between categories of contributors according to fields of intervention *(farmers will contribute significantly)*.

The RBA program is now being implemented according to EWFD main goals.