

Drought policy: key challenges of the Xerochore project

Thierry Davy



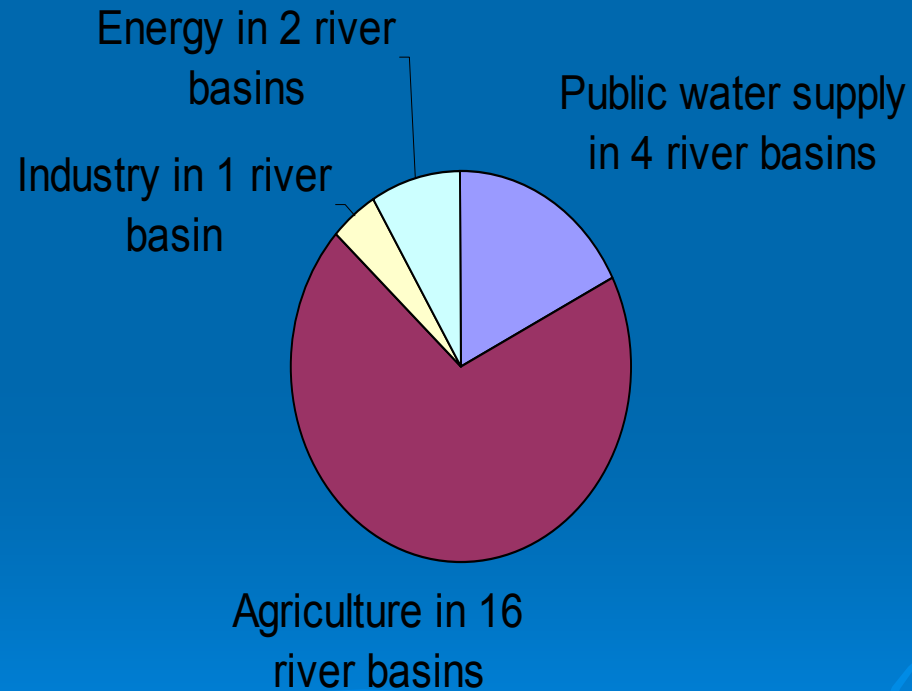
Why do we need to take care of water scarcity and drought in Europe?

The importance of the phenomena in Europe

	water scarcity	droughts
countries	14	13 + Norway
Population in million	200	80
Nb of river basins	Almost 26	

The main causes of water scarcity in EU

Main water use in the river basins affected by water scarcity

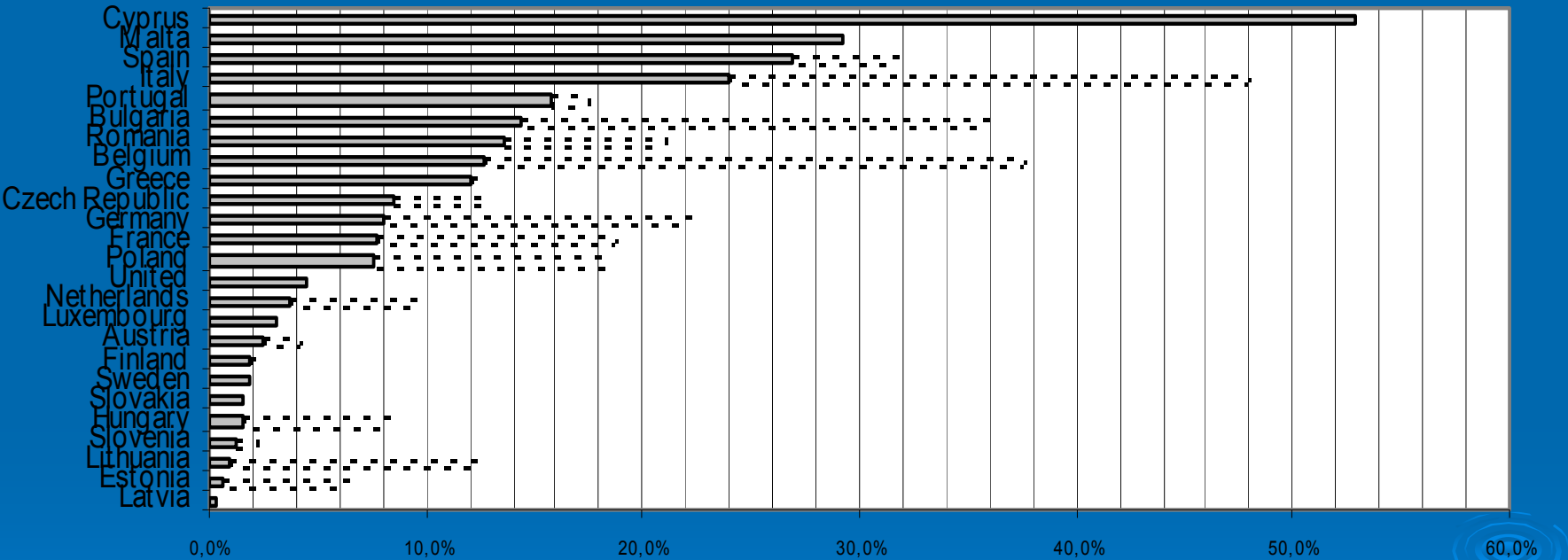


The impacts in Europe

	Water scarcity	droughts Total impact: About € 85 billion
economic	<p>Income losses in agriculture, industrial and energy sectors as well as tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Investments in water supply infrastructures (desalination plants, new reservoirs, transfers,...) and new water efficient technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Damage on habitations - Urgent supplies - Restrictions in water uses, disruption in navigation
social	<p>Decrease in employment (agriculture)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase in water prices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - disruption in water supply, quality problems
environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GW: aquifer depletion, seawater intrusion - Surface W: lower river flows, increase of pollutants concentrations, loss of wildlife, deterioration of wetlands 	<p>substitution of hydroelectricity by thermic energy: gas & particle emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase forest fires

Current EU indicator

Water Exploitation Index (WEI) from 1992 to 2003



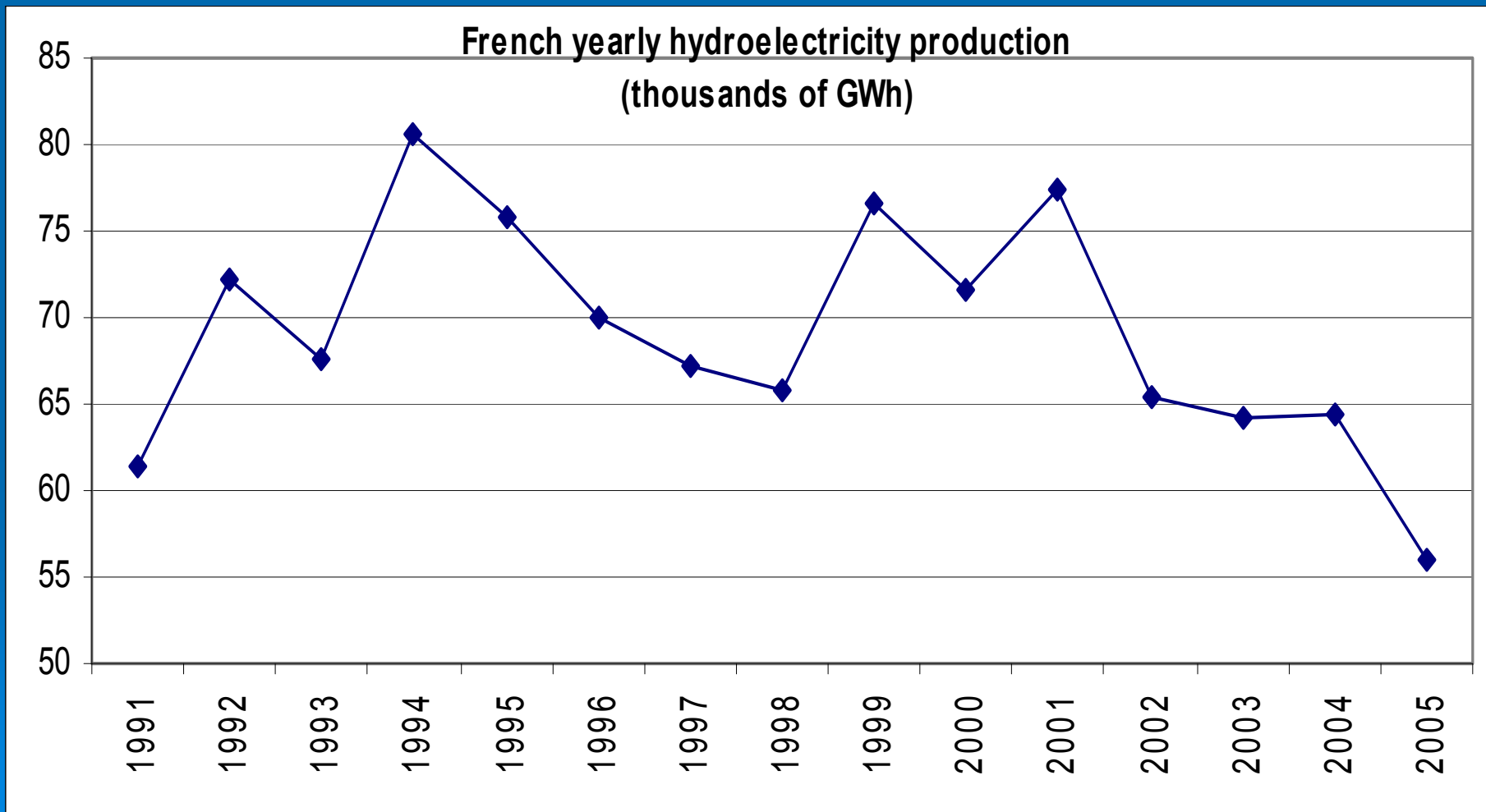
Water Exploitation Index (%)

WEI - Energy : WEI

Costs for agricultural sector in France

Year	Subsidies for losses of crops
2003	590
2004	24
2005	250

Costs and losses for energetic sector in France (around 300 M euros in 2005)



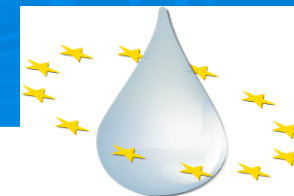
Which needs at EU level to deal with water scarcity and droughts?

- Need to integrate social, economic and environmental aspects
- Need of coordination of measures (international RB)
- Need to take lessons from previous drought events
- Need to include drought sub management plans in Programme of Measures (PoM) and River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) where and when necessary



Main challenges to ensure the consistency between WFD implementation and scarcity issues

1. take into account the possible «competition» between water scarcity and environmental protection issues and objectives (WFD) in the future (GES by 2015)
2. Improve the link between WFD implementation and water scarcity management particularly for the interpretation and the implementation of articles 4.6 and 4.7 (dealing with exemptions to environmental objectives)



The need of an EU political initiative

Need to fill different types of EU identified gaps:

- Technical gaps
- Financial gaps
- Legal gaps
- A political initiative because the WFD has imposed new constraints: the GES, in countries already suffering from water scarcity and droughts

Technical gaps and proposed actions

Gaps

-no evaluation of the effectiveness of quantitative measures for offer, supply, long and short term action



-No catalogue of quantitative measures to prepare PoM of the WFD



Actions

- Need to include these questions in research framework programm

-Work within the CIS to identify possible quantitative measures

Financial gaps and proposed actions

Gaps

Need to reinforce the second pillar of the Common agricultural policy at EU level

Need to adapt regional funds to district scale and needs

Actions

→ -Consultation between DG env and DG Agri
(article 38 revised beginning 2010)

→ -Work between DG env and DG regio to go from a regional scale to a district scale

legal gaps and proposed actions

Gaps

No clear definition of « prolonged drought » in article 4.6



Actions

-Need of a guidance for article 4.6

Investigate non conventional resources
No standards for water reuse (public health)



-Need to work on the definition of standards

Some milestones in the political agenda

- October 2000 the WFD
- The expert network on WS and D
- The GWD 2004
- The council conclusion 2006
- The 2007 communication on WS and D
- 2008 starting annual reports to parliament
- 2012 review of WFD, « Blue print for Europe »
- 2015 2nd RBMP with DMP and climate change considerations



Thank you for your attention