



EP Resolution on the implementation of the water legislation Reflections from the Living Rivers Europe coalition

Rivers as Lifelines event, 15 October 2020
Claire Baffert, WWF EPO



The Living Rivers Europe coalition: our demands

- A better implementation and enforcement of the Water Framework Directive;
- An effective integration of water management aspects into relevant sectoral policies, particularly agriculture, energy, flood risk management and transport; and
- The maintenance of the Water Framework Directive's high standards of water resources and ecosystem protection.





implementation of the water legislation, what has changed?



Rapporteur :

Hansen Christophe (PPE)



Rapporteur :

Dreosto Marco (ID)



Rapporteur :

Björk Malin (GUE/NGL)



Rapporteur :

Cerdas Sara (S-D)



Rapporteur :

Häusling Martin (Verts/ALE)



Rapporteur :

Evi Eleonora (NI)



Rapporteur :

Ștefănuță Nicolae (Renew)



Rapporteur :

Kopcińska Joanna (ECR)

2012

“Points out however that the rate of implementation has been slow and uneven across Member States and regions and that the implementation of the WFD needs to be improved significantly in order to achieve ‘good status’ throughout European waters by 2015;

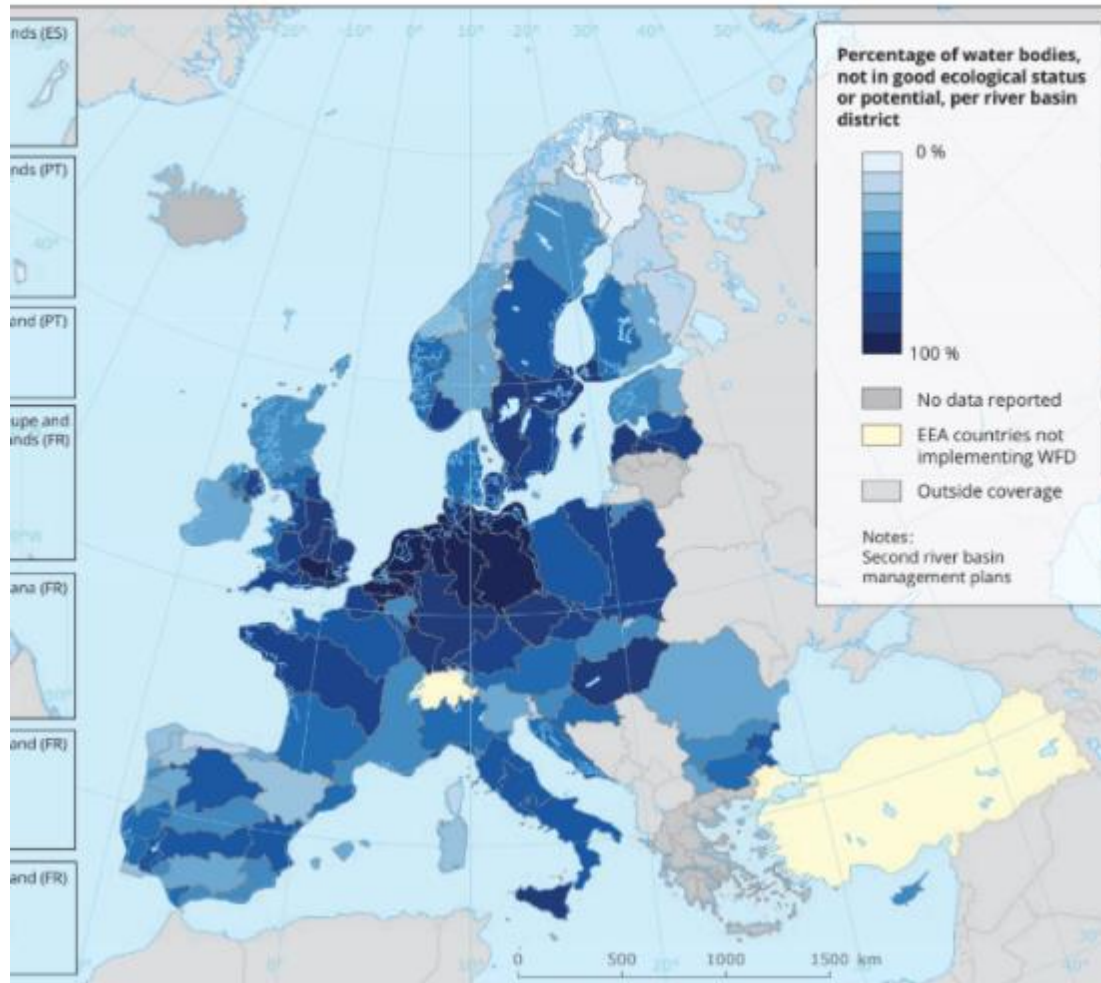
2020

“What concrete actions will the Commission/Member States take in order to improve and enforce the implementation of the water legislation, ensuring that its objectives are achieved as soon as possible and at the latest by 2027?” (oral question)



In 2020, 60% of EU surface water bodies are still not in good status

Country comparison — results of assessment under the Water Framework Directive of ecological status or potential shown by river basin district



- Hydromorphological pressures are the largest pressures on EU surface waters (EEA, 2018)
- Fitness check conclusions points out three obstacles to the achievement of WFD objectives:
 1. insufficient funding
 2. slow implementation
 3. insufficient integration of environmental objectives in sectoral policies



Essential points are addressed in the oral questions and resolution

- How to secure the necessary funding for water measures
- How to improve the integration of the directives' environmental objectives in sectoral policies, particularly in agricultural, energy and transport sectors
- Considerable variations in the implementation of the Directives between the Member States
- Insufficient application of the user and polluter pays principles
- Use of exemptions to the WFD in the third cycle of RBMPs?



But stronger messages are needed to address key drivers of freshwater ecosystems degradation

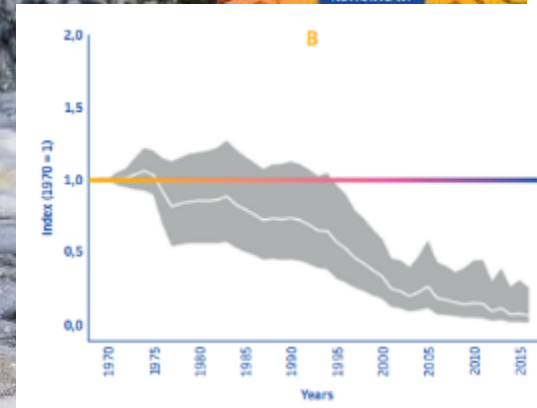
- Hydromorphological changes need to be halted:
 - Hydropower
 - Navigation
 - Dam construction
- The cost-recovery principle should be applied to all water users
- Diffuse pollution should be tackled with proper integration of water in the CAP strategic plans
- NBS need to be boosted, in particular the restoration of floodplains and wetlands



Migratory freshwater fish populations in Europe have collapsed by

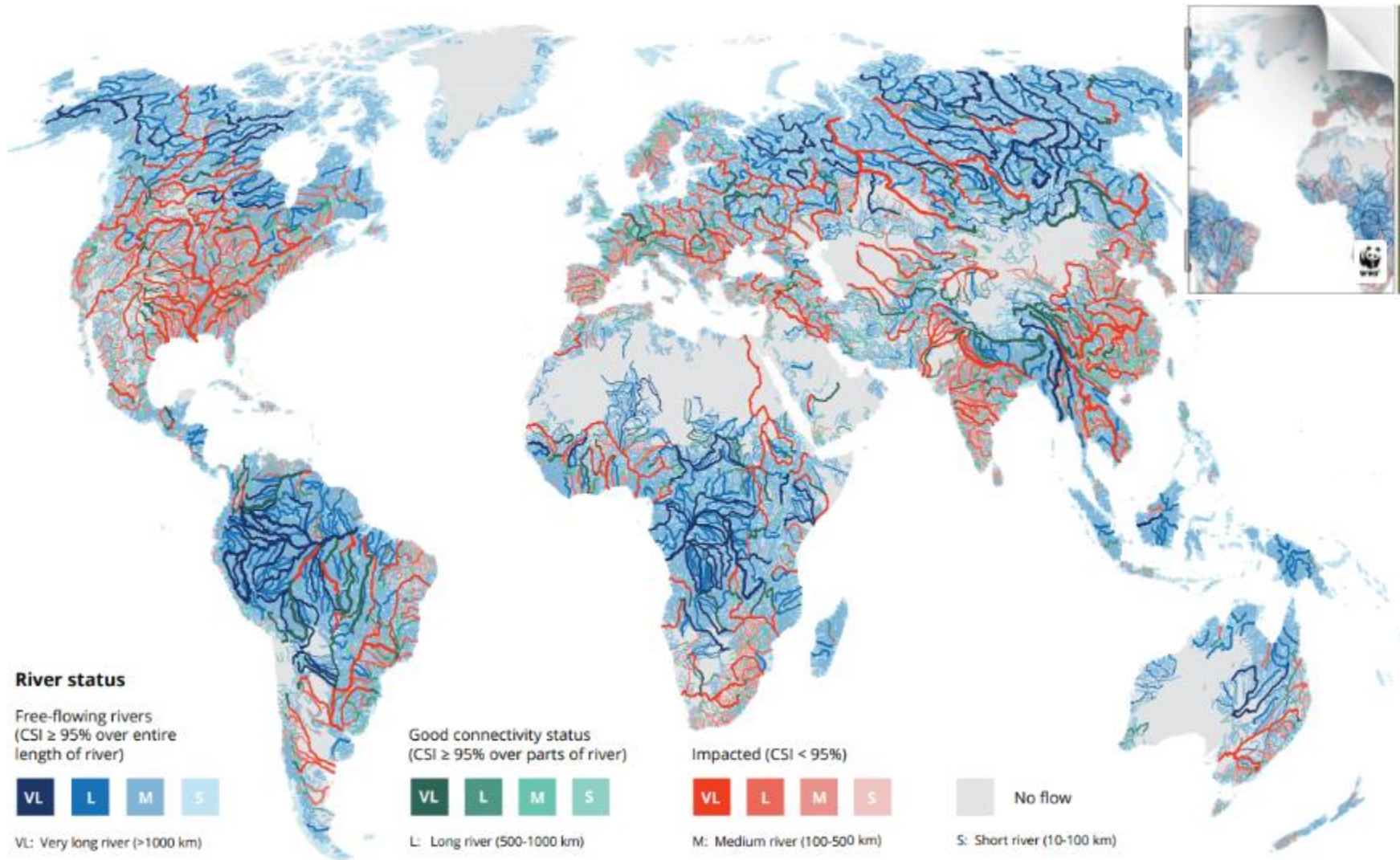
93%

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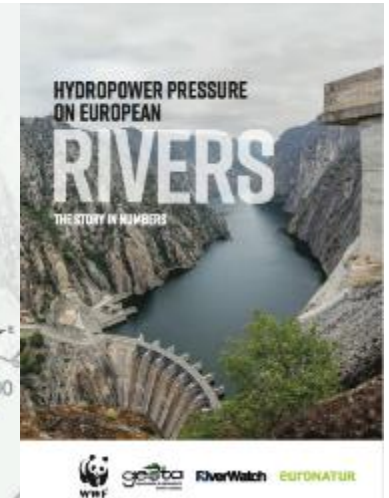
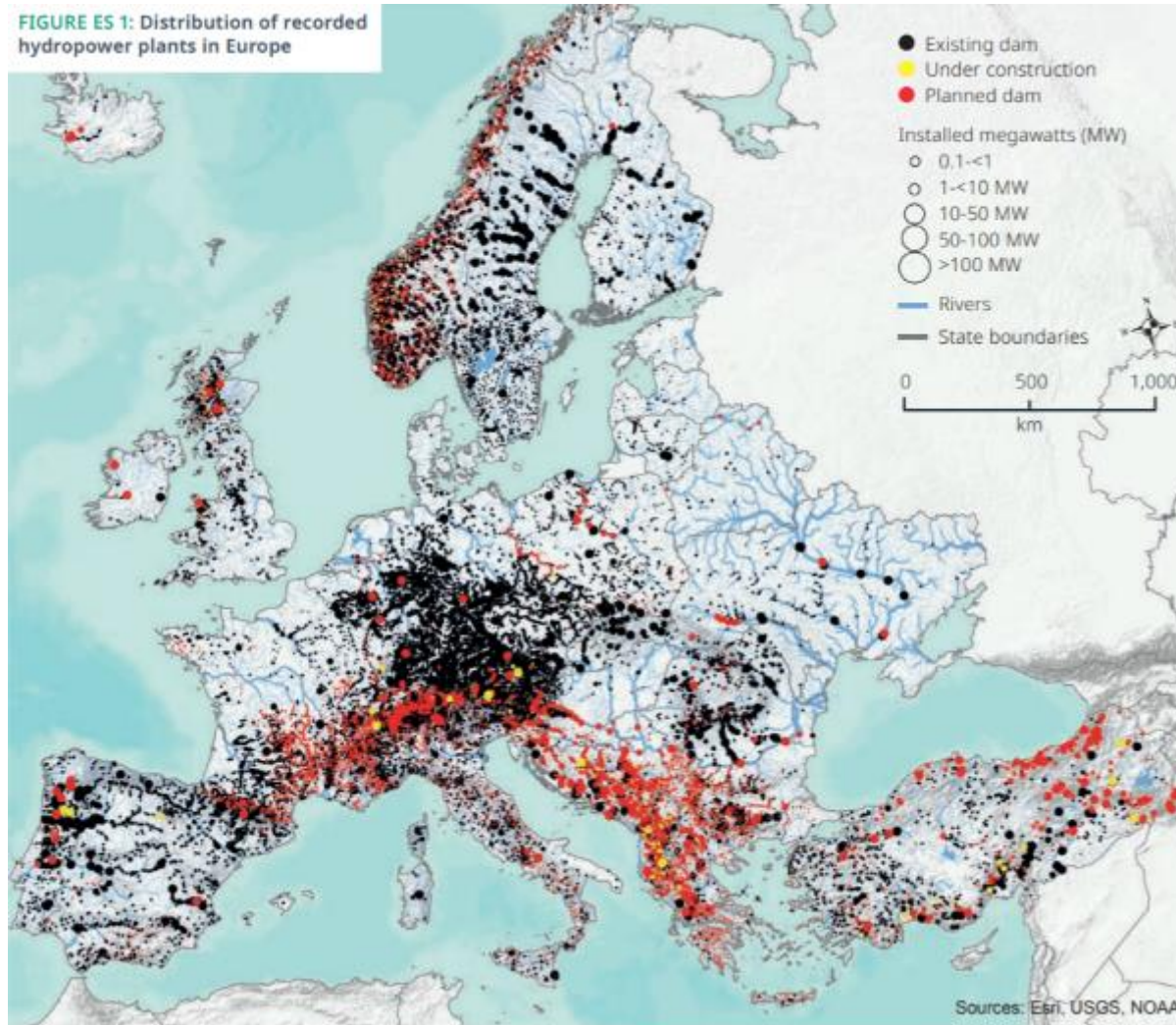
since
1970

Europe has already lost most of its large free-flowing rivers



Yet thousands of hydropower plants are on the card

FIGURE ES 1: Distribution of recorded hydropower plants in Europe



- 21,387 existing hydropower plants
- 8,785 additional plants which are planned or under construction
- 91% of the plants recorded by the study are small plants (capacity <10MW)



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Thank you for your attention



#EP4WFD

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