

**Notes from the 3rd PRB Workshop ‘Lessons resulting from Guidance Document testing related to Art.5 in Pilot River Basins’ –
27 – 28th November 2003, Belgirate, Italy**

The purpose of the Workshop was to learn from Guidance Document testing related to Art.5 in Pilot River Basins and to discuss future activities within the PRB context in short, medium and long term. During the first day of the workshop, presentations were organised according to topics identified by each PRB as most relevant during their Phase 1a testing. Rather than in the form of elaborated text, these minutes report main notes from each presentation. Together with outcomes of Discussion Groups of day 2, and previous answering to the ToR, they will be used for preparing the draft of the PRB Art. 5 Outcome report. Another discussion group on day 2 dealt with on how to focus future PRB activities in order to produce a strategic paper for the SCG.

Attachments to this minutes:

1. Agenda
2. List of participants

FIRST DAY:

Topic 1 – Pressures and Impacts

Pinios (Theodoros Karyotis)

- Pressures on groundwaters from human activity
- Soil erosion
- 3 nitrate vulnerable zones identified (high, medium and low)
- Nitrates from cotton growing together with over exploitation are major pressures in Pinios PRB.

Mossel Saar (Philippe Maire)

- Have used IMPRESS GD to assist with delineation of water bodies
- Have focussed on small sub-basins to act as a demonstration
- Have ‘ignored’ small water bodies with catchments < 10km²
- Have merged WB in rivers with same typology and contiguous
- Using modelling scenarios to estimate pressure reduction by 2015 as a result of different actions taken
- These studies have led to an increase in the number of water bodies; from 400 WBs based on natural criteria to 600 WBs when pressure criteria are added to the assessment. Expecting a similar increase in the number of WBs when physical pressures are included.

Sudal (Anja Ibrekk)

- Identification of WBs as potentially heavily modified
- Sudal is typical Norwegian hydropower regulated catchment
- Extensive monitoring (chemical and biological) monitoring undertaken
- Programme has identified potential HMWBs in Sudal – criteria for their identification have been developed.
- For lakes the criteria have included the amount of draw-down (change in level)
- Situation in Norway is complex due to the number of stream diversions that exist.

Question from Greece: Over what period does the quoted 3 m draw-down occur and what is the depth of lakes affected (i.e. what is the percentage change on the depth)?

Response: assessment is based more on the impact on the biology rather than the percentage change in water level. The release rate is highly variable and still needs more work.

Comments:

- There needs to be a flexible approach to the identification of water bodies. Criteria for the selection of HMWBs in Norway may not be appropriate in Greece, for example.

Topic 2 – Trans-nationality

Somes (Attila Lazar)

- The problems of working on an international basin were raised:
 - History (different monitoring techniques etc.)
 - Language: English was agreed for all technical reports and meetings
 - Each nation worked on their own part of the basin
- Adopted a similar typology approach although there were differences
- Adopted a common GIS
- The timing of products were agreed at workshops and products were exchanged and agreed before sending them to JRC / National Ministries.
- Conclusion: most methodologies have been harmonised, some unsolved issues still have to be addressed e.g. the meaning of ‘geology’.

Scheldt (Veronique Van Den Langenbergh)

- 10 sub-projects are underway
- All meetings require translation – this adds a significant cost to the project. Language barriers are seen as a problem
- 90 meetings and 11 workshops have been undertaken
- Consultation is required at two levels – internal and international
- Advantage of international co-operation – once an agreement has been reached this is seen as very solid basis for future work

Lausitzer Neisse (Heiko Sieker)

- The project leader is responsible for collating information from all three partners
- Co-operation has been better with Czech Republic compared to Poland
- On the identification of water bodies, Germany has followed the WBs Guidance Documents. The Czech Republic has used the Strahler approach.
- IMPRESS – Germany has used DPIR method; impact data has been collected.
- Although data for pressure and impact assessment is available it is still not sufficient for a full pressure – impact analysis

Comments:

- Somes: work has been undertaken in separate groups but seems to be well co-ordinated and focused on providing comparable data.
- Lausitzer Neisse: there seem to be significant problems in communication with still no information provided by Poland.

Topic 3 – ECOSTAT

Marne – (Maria Salvetti)

Main focus was on cost recovery analysis:

- Used a range of categories for cost analysis
- Subsidies to agriculture and industry etc. from tax payers and cross subsidies
- How much are people prepared to pay? (The social value of the damages)
- Forecasting of changes in pressures (population, industry, agriculture etc.).
- Modelling of impact of new treatment e.g. phosphate reduction

Odense (Harley Madsen)

- The current report (draft Art. 5 report was presented at the workshop) is considered to be a technical response to the reporting requirements
- Focus of the presentation on the marine aspects of physical modifications
- Risk assessment of not achieving objectives by 2015
- Majority of surface WBs will not reach good status due to physical conditions or discharges.
- Not much more can be done with reducing pollution from point sources. 85 – 95% reductions in the BOD, N and P are removed. Diffuse pollution is still an issue.

Oulujoki (Seppo Hellsten)

- River has few pressures (small population with some diffuse source problems) other than hydropower (18 power stations)
- Assumption made: morphological pressures play a significant role in small rivers; hydrological pressures in larger rivers.
- Have developed a 3 phase approach to identifying hydro-morphological pressures – based on expert judgement, data etc.
- Have developed a scoring system for pressures on rivers to assist with identifying HMWBs. Approach was found to correlate with data from habitats surveys
- Approach applied to lakes (< 10 km²)
- Conclusion: provisional designation gives similar output to expert judgement. Biological classification still missing

Comments:

How to compare ‘expert judgement’ with modelling or data?

- In France models are used as a supplement to data
- Denmark – all models require some expert judgement input. But so far there has been no comparison made of expert judgement against other information sources.

Topic 4 – Water Bodies

Shannon – (Garrett Kilroy)

- ‘North/South’ co-operation in place for PRB
- Groundwaters have been identified as indicated in the WB Guidance Document.
- Problems have been encountered in preparing harmonised hydro-geological maps
- Have developed an approach to group river WBs (non-contiguous) in a sub-catchement to reduce the number of WBs
- TCM delineation is largely complete

- Have identified approximately 97 groundwater, 1100 river and 50 lake water bodies, with 13 transitional and 9 coastal WBs
- Problems have been encountered in identifying significant pressure thresholds

Questions:

Grouping approach – based on typology, but still has to be validated on the basis of ecological status.

Tevere - (Alfredo Di Domenicantonio)

- Started with groundwater identification; as having problems associated with dry conditions.(water scarcity)
- Groundwater / surface water interaction issues
- Testing completed on a number of guidance documents
- They will present a number of case studies to assist with use of Guidance Documents (e.g. hydropower, groundwater/surface water interactions etc.)

Jucar – (Teodoro Estrela)

- Completed analysis of pressure and impact
- Surface WBs have been identified
- Studying pressures on the WBs – abstractions and morphological pressures (small dams)
- Spanish version has been prepared on IMPRESS which leads to a risk assessment (with respect to pressures) on water bodies

Topic 5 – Public Participation

Ribble – (Peter Fox)

- Focus of presentation on pros and cons of early or late public involvement
- 4 stages pre-planning, planning, plan approval and plan delivery
- Public participation should be at all stages of the planning.
- Described the benefits of discussions with key stakeholders
- Approach to public participation – working with different groups of stakeholders to discuss different issues
- Important to use appropriate language and to manage expectations of the stakeholders

Comments:

- In Ireland there are issues of how stakeholders understand the management structure and how these stakeholders get their views heard
- In the Ribble – discussions have avoided what ‘good status’ means
- PF recommended prioritising stakeholders by getting stakeholders together and asking them to identify other groups and to prioritise them

A general discussion on the above topics took place after all presentations. The main results of such discussion are reported here:

Pressures

- Morphological pressures
- Lack of thresholds for pressure
- Step from pressure to impact

- NL Thresholds can not be applied at a wide level but have to be applicable at the local level. There is a need for document that captures the experiences from the PRBs.
- FR Problems have been greater in international basins with the need to harmonise thresholds (for example)
- BE Enough Guidance – what is needed is more time to reach political agreements
- DK Enough guidance – there is now a need to give more specific information e.g. how to define ‘significant’ pressures, but this can only be done at the PRB level. The knowledge on what to do exists, but it would still be useful to have more examples from the PRBs to share experiences/ best practice
- DE The Guidance Documents provide a lot of qualitative information but little quantitative data
- JRC For the next phase of testing PRBs should work closer with the Intercalibration group.
- NL Examples from the Rhine – not one type or approach but a consistent approach

ECOSTAT

- Good ecological status
- Reference conditions
- Classification schemes

- DK What has been presented in the Art 5 draft report is technical and not political.
- BE The Scheldt is very political! This is much more than a technical study
- IE Believes that politics should not be included but recognises that the whole process is very political due to the implications of the Directive
- DK The next steps (the programme of measures) is political, but that the characterisation stage should not be political
- BE Reality is that discussions in an international basin on thresholds (for example) is often biased by national ‘wishes’ due to the economic implications.

Water Bodies

- What do the countries use for transitional typology? Spain – salinity, Denmark – tidal range, geomorphology and salinity
- When to refer to WBs as transitional or coastal?

In addition to these main observations, no further discussion took place, mainly because the topic was fairly debated at the Thematic Workshop in September 2003.

Trans-nationality

- Language problems in trans-national river basins
 - Reference conditions, monitoring approaches and asymmetric data
 - Timing of products and trans-national co-ordination
- GR After agreements (and the solid base referred to above) who is going to ensure agreement implemented?
- BE Impossible to get one language agreed for the Scheldt. The process still may go slowly but following agreement there is an obligation to comply
- NL Rhine has just adopted a third language – there are also issues associated with public participation in international basins
- RO English was used as the working language even at technical workshops (although national interpreters where available)

DE For the Lausitzer Neisse a common language was agreed. But recognise the need for local languages when involved in Public Participation

Public Participation

Why start public participation early? (Only 2 out of the 9 PRBs testing this Guidance Document – the Ribble and the Oulujoki)

BE Problem of identifying stakeholders at an international level. Should Public Participation be considered at a regional, national or international level?

FI Have found it difficult to give answers to stakeholders to what the Directive means regarding specific questions, e.g. can there be a new plant etc. which has an impact?

UK Have had this sort of question many times. Simple answer is just to say ‘not known yet’ – but at least you will be aware of potential issues in the future.

DK Do not think that stakeholders should be involved in Art. 5 reports at this stage. It raises expectations. Should involve them later in the Programme of Measures

SECOND DAY:

The second day of the workshop was organised according to the following Discussion Groups:

- What are the main challenges and learning points from your PRB?
- What are the major problems with the different GDs that each PRB would like to highlight? What solution do the PRBs propose?

Results from these Discussion Groups will be elaborated and included in the Outcome Report.

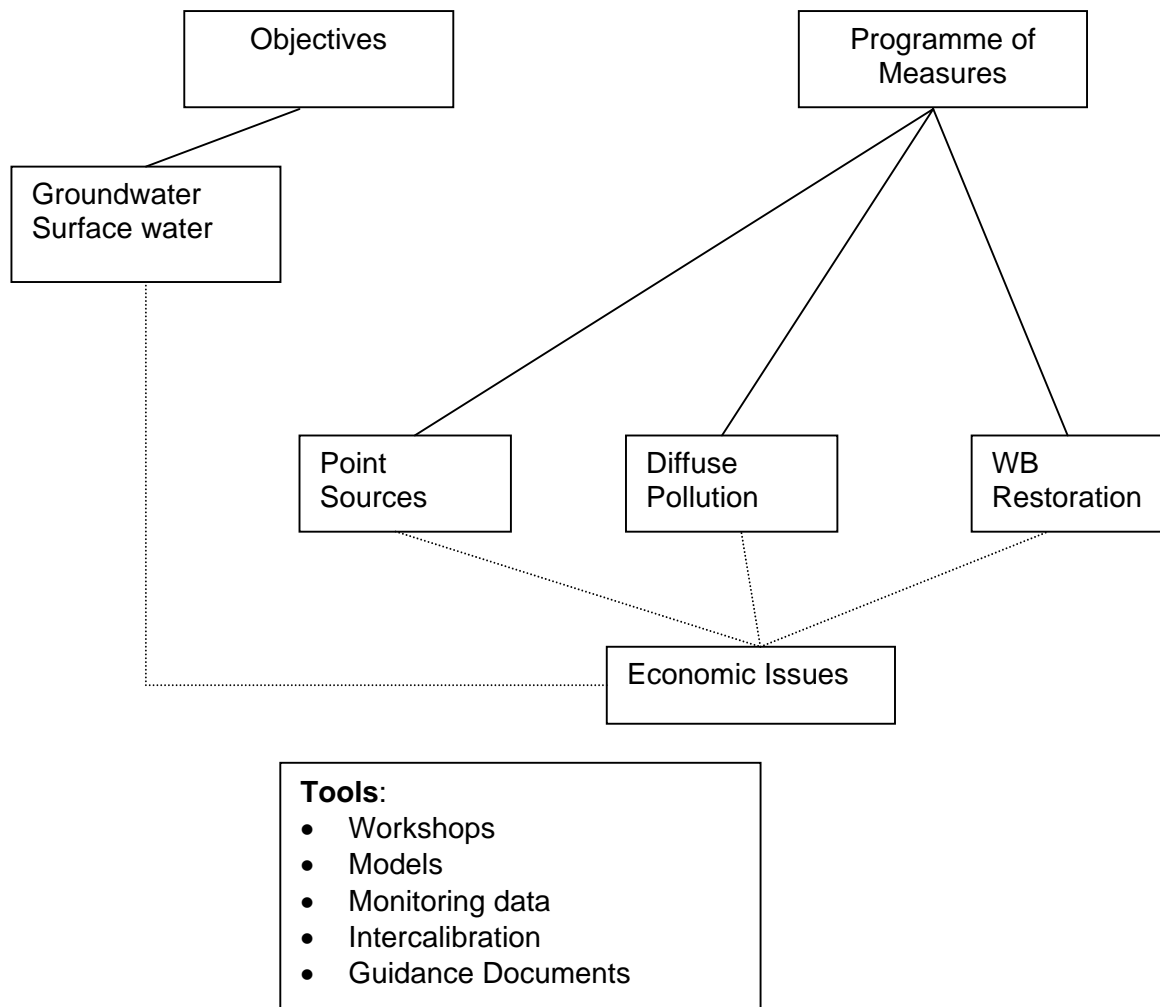
In addition there was a Discussion Group on future activities within the PRB context in short, medium and long term.

Notes on ‘Future’ Group

The following are the key points from the discussions in the Future Group.

1. The future programme may not just rely on input from the ‘PRBs’ but could (or should) be supplemented by other National Experts working on the implementation of the WFD.
2. Important for national programmes not to wait for the ‘final’ outputs from the PRB programme as this may be too late to assist, but to utilise draft and preliminary reports.
3. Important to use as many ‘real’ examples of good practice from the PRB (and other programmes) as possible to supplement the Guidance Documents.
4. Lessons learnt from the PRB (and other) programmes should be collected together.
5. Important that reports prepared should indicate the ‘status’ of the document – i.e. has it been approved by the Commission or is the document guidance to be used by MS as they wish.
6. When outcome report is prepared a letter should be sent to MS to say that the document is completed and this and other relevant information is stored on CIRCA.
7. Important to get commitment from the PRBs to actively participate in the programme.

8. PRBs are important front-runners in their own MS for implementing the Directive. As such, they are an important group and are typically 1 –2 years ahead of other river basins with respect to implementation.
9. Recommend 2 PRB workshops per year (as current) together with periodic PRB Leaders meetings and thematic workshops.
10. Suggestion to open thematic workshops to River Basin District managers which also have PRBs present to share experiences. This would present an integrated approach between the front-runners and other river basins (122 River basin districts with several participants would lead to large meeting – suggestion of splitting, for example in eco-regions.)
11. Thematic and regional workshops suggested topics (some of them have already been agreed upon):
 - hydropower,
 - Mediterranean,
 - Nordic,
 - HMWB
 - IMPRESS analysis
 - Groundwater/Surface water interactions
 - Agricultural impacts.
12. PRBs are sources of ‘consultants’ to be used in other river basins.
13. As the PRBs are the ‘front-runners’ it is important to have clear tasks for them in the future – not ‘just’ testing the Guidance Documents. These tasks could include leading the implementation of the Directive. Recognising that not all PRBs could elaborate a Management Plan the work could be focused at specific ‘personalised’ topics, e.g. restoration of WBs, diffuse pollution etc. This would move closer to implementation piloting but would still involve testing of Guidance Documents in more operational circumstances, for example focusing more on developing elements of Programme of Measures. The figure used to discuss the concept is presented below.



14. This would continue to test the GDs against the ToR in a similar way to that undertaken but the focus moves from Art 5 reporting priorities to Programme of Measures.
15. Future testing:
 - Classification – important that this is included.
 - HMWBs – this needs to be tested as soon as possible. The information needed should already be available
 - Intercalibration – this should be tested in close co-operation with WG 2A. The information obtained by WG 2A should be passed to the PRBs.
 - Monitoring.
 - GIS – testing of the practical aspects of the GDs by the PRBs.
 - Planning process – difficult to test. Flowcharts are considered to be very theoretical. Need to establish how these are reflected in reality. Issues over the timescales need to be identified.
- A paper elaborating the new priorities of the PRB programme should be presented to the next SCG meeting. This paper will be discussed with the PRB Leaders at their next meeting in February 2004.

PRB WORKPLAN FOR 2004

Agreed Deadlines and Deliverables

Individual Reports from PRB on the first characterisation (Art 5) of testing

- Already available - Odense
- Before the end of 2003 - Shannon, Tevere, Somes/Szamos, Suddal and Jucar.

SHORT TERM

Action 1:

- JRC send first draft Report to Drafting Group (23rd January 2004)
- Drafting Group reply by 30th January
- JRC sends a revised draft to PRB Steering Group by 7th February
- Comments of Steering Group by 15th February
- PRB Steering Group meeting on 23rd February in Brussels (data to be confirmed).

Action 1b:

- Final report to the SCG on 26th February.

PRB Steering Group delivers a strategic paper on follow-up PRB activities.

Action 2:

Complete testing of GDs according to Phase 1b (deadline 31st May 2004)

Action 3:

Thematic and Regional Workshops

- Mediterranean eco-regions Seminar
- HMWB Workshop
- IMPRESS analysis Workshop
- Agricultural impact Workshop: Odense- Denmark

MEDIUM TERM (from June 2004)

Action 4:

Moving from virtual to real testing and involve other river basins in Europe.

LONG TERM actions.

These actions will be analysed and developed in more details in a strategic paper to be presented at the next SGS meeting group on 15th March 2004. The Future group has discussed the basis of the content of this paper during the second day of the workshop.

ISSUES AGREED

- Shannon, Odense, Oulujoki, Somes/Szamos, Scheldt, Pinios and Jucar agreed on Wetlands guidance document testing
- Classification guidance document: PRBs leaders will confirm at the next PRB Steering Group meeting if they are ready to test this guidance document.



Individual Reports from PRBs on the first characterisation (Art V) phase of testing:

- Already available - Odense
- Before the end of 2003 - Shannon, Tevere, Somos/Szomes, Suldal and Jucar



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PRB WORKPLAN FOR 2004 Agreed Deadlines and Deliverables

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Issues agreed

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“Integrated Testing in Pilot River Basins”

Workshop

Lessons resulting from Guidance Document testing related to Art. 5 in Pilot River Basins

27-28th November 2003
 Belgirate, Italy

Agenda

FIRST DAY: THURSDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2003

9:00 – 9:15	Welcome address Objectives, expectations and format of the Workshop	JRC/DG Env
9:30 – 13:00	MORNING SESSION: Presentations on lessons learnt from integrated testing concerning Art. 5:	PRBs leaders
	TOPIC 1: PRESSURES AND IMPACTS.	
<p>Issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morphology pressures (several PRBs mention the lack of guidance for this kind of pressures. Suldal recommends the integration of the HMWB analysis and the analysis of potential significant pressures) 2. Lack of thresholds for pressures (e.g. how to identify significant water management issues), 3. Step from pressures to impacts (although the list of impact indicators is quite complete, there is a lack of specific threshold values. Many PRBs will rely on national thresholds. It is highlighted that the criteria and thresholds can be helpful to identify a potential impact but are not sufficient as a basis for a decision whether a water body might be at risk of failing to meet the 2015 objectives). 		
9:40 – 9:55	PINIOS: Pressures topics (morphology pressures, pressures and impacts, etc.) especially referred to groundwater.	
9:55 – 10:10	MOSELLE-SARRE: Pressure criteria to delineate the WBs.	
10:10 – 10:25	SULDAL: Suggest way to proceed to categorise water bodies as potential heavily modified.	
10:25 – 10:45	Discussion on Pressures and Impacts	

TOPIC 2: TRANSNATIONALITY.		
Issues:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Language aspects in transnational river basins 5. Other transnational aspects (reference conditions, monitoring, responsibility, exchange of data and information, asymmetric data) 6. Timing of products / transnational co-ordination 		
<i>10:45 – 11:15</i>	<i>Coffe Break</i>	
11:15 – 11:30	SZAMOS/SOMES: Transnational aspects of the Szamos/Somes PRB Testing.	
11:30 – 11:45	SCHELDT: Transnationality with a focus on transnational co-ordination	
11:45 – 12:00	NEISSE: Lessons resulting from Guidance Document Testing with focus on transboundary experiences.	
TOPIC 3: ECOSTAT.		
Issues:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Good ecological status (provisional objectives for 2015; how to determine them?) 8. Reference conditions and expert judgement (The Odense reported that they used dynamic and empirical modelling. Many PRBs indicate they will use expert judgement for the determination of Reference Conditions; how are we going to compare the different outcomes of the experts, what are the methods applied, etc.?) 9. Classification schema's (might be too early to discuss) 10. Provisional GEP for provisional HMWB (many PRBs noted the lack of a definition of good ecological potential (Jucar, Marne, Moselle-Sarre). 		
12:00 – 12:15	MARNE: Methodology and preliminary results for cost recovery and baseline scenario for Marne PRB.	
12:15 – 12:30	ODENSE: Presentation on Ecostat issues for the Odense PRB.	
12:30 – 12:45	OULUJOKY: Presentation on initial designation of HMWB.	
<i>12:45 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:00 – 17:30	AFTERNOON SESSION: Continuation of presentations on lessons learnt from integrated	PRB co-ordinators

	testing concerning Art. 5:	
	TOPIC 4: WATER BODIES.	
Issues:		
(Surface water bodies merely were covered during the water body workshop)		
11 Ideal size of (ground-) water bodies (in the Odense and Oulujoki, the medium size is about some km ² s, whereas in Jucar and Moselle-Sarre PRBs this size is about some hundreds of km ² s).		
12 Delineation of transitional and coastal water bodies (concrete examples are needed on this limit, e.g. Pinios and Odense have chosen to define only coastal waters).		
14:00 – 14:15	SHANNON: Water body definition/aggregation, and issues with pressure thresholds.	
14:15 – 14:30	TEVERE: Quantitative interaction between surface water and groundwater, with particular emphasis on the way this issue influences the development of the River Basin Management Plans.	
14:30 – 14:45	JUCAR: Qualitative and quantitative analysis of pressure concerning surface water pollution and hydromorphological alterations.	
	TOPIC 5: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.	
Issues:		
13 Difference between PRB's that don't want to start too early, and PRB's that already started at an early stage. On the one hand PRBs that seem to judge the PRB-exercise too early for stakeholder and public involvement, on the other hand PRBs that started the active involvement at a very early stage in a satisfying way. No clear explanation for the reasons to take the first or second position. Yet, the more hesitant attitude towards public participation seems to be dominant (only 2 of the 9 PRBs testing the PP guidance started early in the beginning with involvement).		
14:45 – 15:00	RIBBLE: Public Participation in the Ribble PRB	
15:00 – 15:30	<i>Coffe Break</i>	
15:30 – 17:30	General discussion on the presented topics.	Drafting group/JRC/DG ENV

SECOND DAY: FRIDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2003

9:00 - 9:30	Organisation of Discussion Groups (tentative):	
9:30 - 13:00 (30 min coffee break included)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bottlenecks/open issues from the first phase of the testing (Art. 5 characterisation). How to solve them? • How to compare expert judgement/outcomes? How to exchange information/data? • Testing the remainder GDs. How to focus? Key points to address. How to integrate all GDs during the testing? • What about the next steps of the testing exercise? 	Chairmans: M. Moren-Abat, M. de Rooy, J.Zaldivar G. Bidoglio Rapporteur: P. Whalley. L. Galbiati.
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	
14:30 –15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Summary of outcomes from Discussion Groups - Agreement on follow-up actions 	Chairpersons, JRC and DG Env.
15:30 – 15:45	Closure of meeting	
16:00 - 17:00	Meeting of the Drafting group in order to organise work and next steps	

Notes on Draft Agenda:

1. Each PRB is expected to illustrate its specific experience in relation to a selected issue, i.e. GW/SW interactions, transboundary, public participation, WB definition/aggregation, particular problems from an ecoregion (Nordic, Mediterranean..), linking pressures and impact assessment to economic analysis. In this way, through a focused presentation, it will be easier to transfer acquired knowledge to the other PRBs.

3rd PRB (Pilot River Basins) Workshop

Villa Carlotta, Belgirate (no) Italy

27/11/2003 - 28/11/2003

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