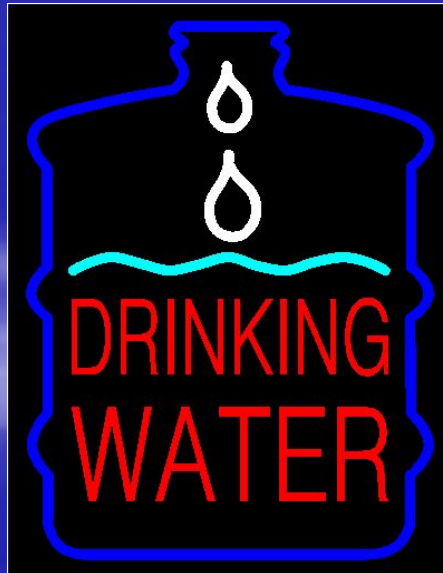




The Drinking Water Directive 1998/83/EC

Presentation for the multilateral meeting
with Croatia and Turkey



Jan Cortvriend

DG ENV, unit Water and Marine



Main Objective of the EC Treaty:

Human Health



According to the EC Treaty:

Community policy on the environment shall contribute to pursuit of the following objectives:

- Protection of human health
- Shall aim at a high level of environmental protection
- Shall take account of available scientific data



Drinking Water Directive



OBJECTIVES

Protection of human health (according to art 174 of the Treaty)

- Drink / use water for a lifetime without the risk of adverse health effects (based upon 1992 WHO guidelines)
- To ensure that drinking water is free from micro organisms, parasites and substances which constitute a danger to human health



Definition



“Water for human consumption”

Water in its original state or after treatment,

- intended for drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes
- from a distribution network, from a tanker, in bottle or in containers.



All water used in **any** undertaking **of human food manufacturing, processing, ...**

- Unless the quality of the water cannot affect the wholesomeness of the finished foodstuff



The Directive does not apply to



- Natural mineral waters
(Council Directive 80/777/EEC of 15 July 1980)
- Medicinal waters
(Council Directive 65/65/EEC of 26 January 1965)

And at discretion of a MS:



- Waters for some other purposes (second grade water)
- “**Very small**” **Supplies** $< 10 \text{ m}^3/\text{day}$ or < 50 persons
 - **unless** water is supplied as part of **commercial or public activity**
 - information and advisory duty towards the public



General obligations and quality standards



To be **wholesome** and **clean**, drinking water must:

- o Contain no **micro-organisms, parasites, substances** endangering human health
- o Meet the minimum (parametric) requirements in the field of:
 - ✓ Microbiology (like enterococci, -coli,)
 - ✓ Chemistry (like nitrates, fluoride, arsenic, nickel, acrylamide)
 - ✓ Radioactivity (like tritium, ... defined TDI)
 - ✓ Appearance (like colour, smell, turbidity, Fe, ...)

As described in Annex 1 (A, B, C) of the Directive – **and MS shall set values for these AND additional parameters** where protection of human health



Point of compliance



- **Bottled water or containers** intended for human consumption:

- at the **bottling plant** – filling point

- **Tanker:**

- at the **point**, at which it emerges from the tanker

- **In the distribution network**



- sampling at the **tap** is an obligation
 - sampling in the network or ex-water works is **an option** on **condition no downstream adverse effect may occur**
 - MS are only responsible for quality of the distribution system in public buildings, not for the **domestic distribution system**

- **Monitoring programs: Annex II – Methods of Analysis: Annex III**

- **Compliance in EU15 > 99 %**



Domestic Distribution Systems



“domestic distribution system”

Shall mean the **pipe work**, fittings and appliances **between the taps and the distribution networks**.

But:

only if they are not the responsibility of the water suppliers, according to national law.



Further Obligations (1)



Derogations

- From **chemical values** set out in Annex I (B)
 - ✓ and without a potential danger to human health
 - ✓ Water supply cannot otherwise provided by any other reasonable means
 - ✓ 2 possible derogation shall be limited to as short time as possible and shall not exceed 3 years
 - ✓ Review towards the end and determine progress
- **third derogation** only under exceptional circumstances - MS must ask EC (< 3 years)
- **MS have to inform the Commission** and the **population** affected by any such derogation promptly in an appropriate manner



Further Obligations (2)



Remedial Action, Information and Reporting

- In case of any failure:
 - Immediate **remedial action** to restore water quality
 - **Prohibit, restrict use and advise on use**
- **Reporting towards consumers**
 - Obligation to ensure the adequate and **up-to date information** on the DW quality is available for **consumer**
 - Increased **information to consumers** in cases of deviations
- **Reporting towards the European Commission**
 - Obligation to report to the EC according to fixed timetables



European Commission, DG Environment

The revision of the 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive



If all is fine why then a revision of the directive ??



The revision of the 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive

	Previous legislation	Present legislation 98/83/EC	Future legislation
Parameters	> 62 parameters	48 parameters 2 µbiological 26 chemical 20 indicators	Less parameters, new parameters? What with: endocrine disrupters, Protozoa, legionella Radioactive substances new generation pesticides Cu, Pb, Ni Construction products, etc etc
Method		Parameter compliance Maximum values acceptance no abnormal changes tap sampling	What with Risk assessment? Risk management? Multi-barrier approach? Water safety plans?



The 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive

There is need for a revision because of ...

- lack of scientific information and/or political compromise
- 10 new Member States facing very different problems
- growing awareness around Water Safety Plans, RA, RM
- evolution: partial update is difficult for Cu, Pb, Ni
-
- 2003: Large public & stakeholder consultation through

Drinking Water Seminar



The 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive



Outcome of the 2003 Drinking Water Seminar

Guidance on the main focal points of the revision:

1. Risk assessment & management
2. materials in contact with drinking water (EAS)
3. microbiological parameters
4. chemical parameters

+ Problem of Small Supplies



First focal point of the revision: Risk assessment & management

- Water Safety Plans
- Concept integrated by WHO in 2004 Guidelines for DWQ
- Control of water production chain source → tap
- Multi barrier approach
- Approach of studying and handling risks





The revision of the 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive

First focal point of the revision: Risk assessment & management

The problem is finding the right balance

- Health considerations – level of protection
- Consumer confidence
- Acceptance water suppliers ...probably not a problem
- Defining the process: production and operational management
- Describe the process from a regulator and legal point of view

We start a common project WHO-EC

- In order to define an appropriate regulatory framework for WSP



The revision of the 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive

Second focal point of the revision: Chemical parameters

- DWD 98/83 less stringent in relation to chemicals (than to microbiology)

No immediate health effect ????

No derogations possible.

- Growing awareness on chemical substances in DW

WHO, Bonn charter, Eureau, DWS2003, DW Workshops in EU10

- 2005 Survey in EU25+ on chemical parameters

At least 20 chemical parameters cause concern in > one Member State
Fluoride, Nitrates, Arsenic are problematic in > 8 Member State
Causes: Natural (geological), agriculture, heritage, deadlock, ...



The revision of the 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive



Second focal point of the revision: Chemical parameters

- Focus on chemical substances must be given in revision process.

Attention for

- new substances (pesticides, endocrine disruptors,)
- sensitive matters where state of art has evolved (Fluoride, ..)
- Copper Lead Nickel
- pesticides (global/individual limits..)
- chemicals for treatment of water,



The revision of the 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive

Third focal point of the revision: Construction Products in Contact with Drinking Water

- Cu, Pb, Ni, cements, plastics, ECD ...
- Relates to 2 directives (DW art 10 and CP Directive)
 - “No substances .. for new installations .. used in the distribution ...should remain in Drinking Water.”
 - “The interpretative document of the CP Directive (89/106) shall respect the requirements of the DWD”
- Regulatory group produced latest proposal for an EAS (European Acceptance Scheme) in March 2005
- The EAS is still under construction ...



The 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive



Fourth focal point of the revision: Microbiological parameters

- Pending issues

Parameters, indicators, methods,
equivalence of methods
legionella, cryptosporidium & giardia
...

- EMAG is JRC run expert group dealing with

Equivalence of methods
Addressing microbiological issues
for DWD Support for revision



The 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive

Extra focal point of the revision: Small supplies

EU has :

- Incomplete knowledge on number of small supplies (< 5000 persons served)
- Even less knowledge on very small supplies (< 10 persons served)
- Unreliable data on percentage of population dependent on such supplies in most countries (rough estimate > 10% Europe wide)
- Incomplete information on number of (very) small supplies used for public or commercial activities





The 98/83/EC Drinking Water Directive



Ongoing issues with relevance for the revision:

- Strategic document for the revision: internet consultation
- Seminars in the new and candidate Member States on DW
- DWD Reporting guidelines
Guidelines formulated in 2005
- Monitoring of Radioactive parameters
Commission Decision 2006



Thank you for your attention



e mail **jan.cortvriend@cec.eu.int**