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EU WATER CONFERENCE 2018



Vienna - Austria
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Austrian
Presidency
of the
Council of the
European Union

Wastewater reuse

EU water legislation – fit for purpose?

Oldřich Vlasák

Member of the European Committee of the Regions

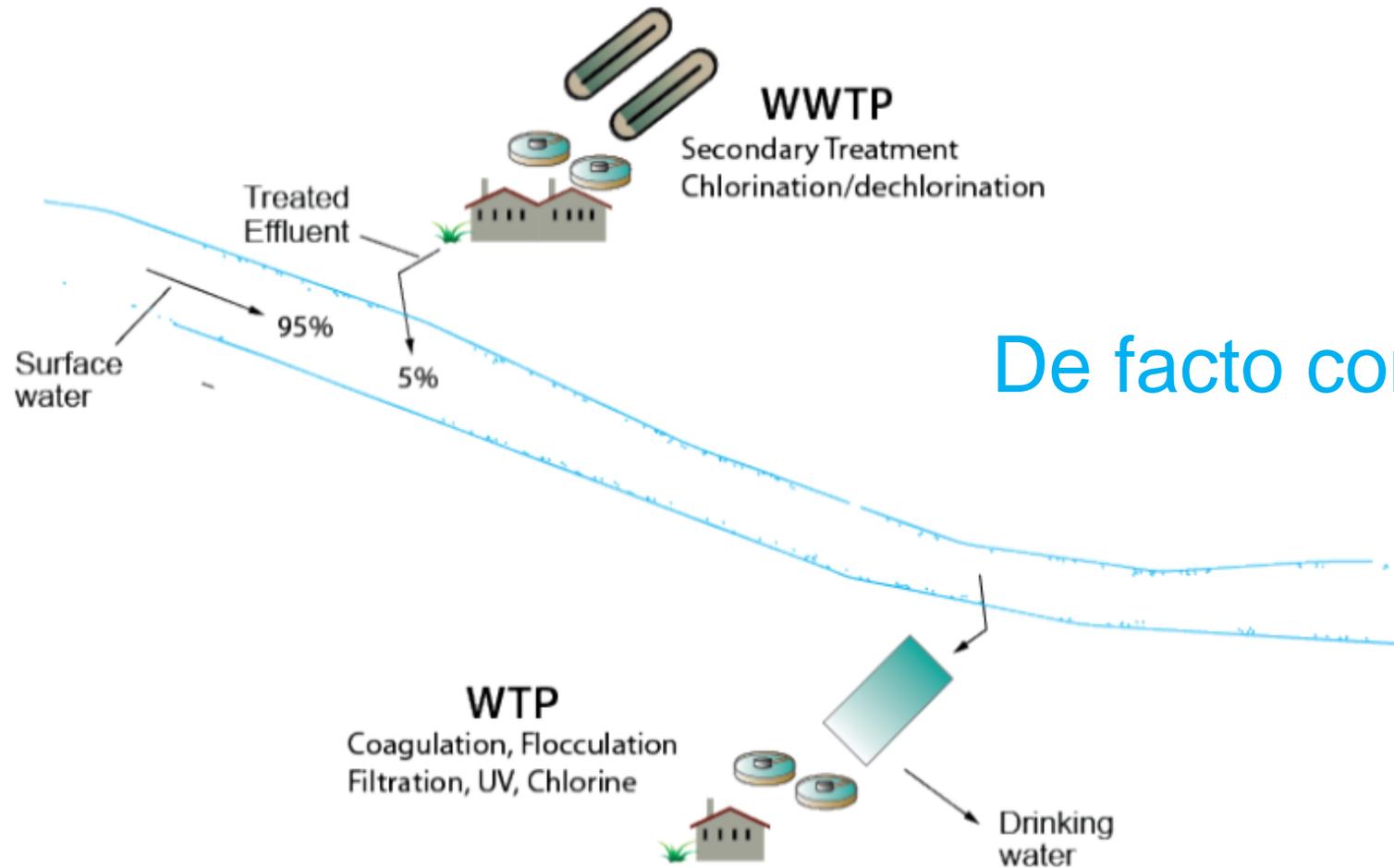
Rapporteur on the proposal of Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse

The case for promoting water reuse

- Increase of human and natural stress on water bodies
- Protection of drinking water sources and abstraction points
- Technical progress → State-of-the-art sanitation technology achieves the quality required for recycling
- Paradigm shift in water treatment → from *safe discharge* to *safe reuse*

Wastewater is not waste, but stable source of water!

The current paradigm: *Safe discharge*



De facto common worldwide

Towards a new paradigm: *Safe reuse*

Uses of reclaimed water



- Agricultural irrigation
- Landscape irrigation
- Industrial recycling and reuse
- Groundwater recharge
- Recreation and/or environmental use
- Non-potable urban use
- Car washing
- Washing the streets

Technologies to reuse water

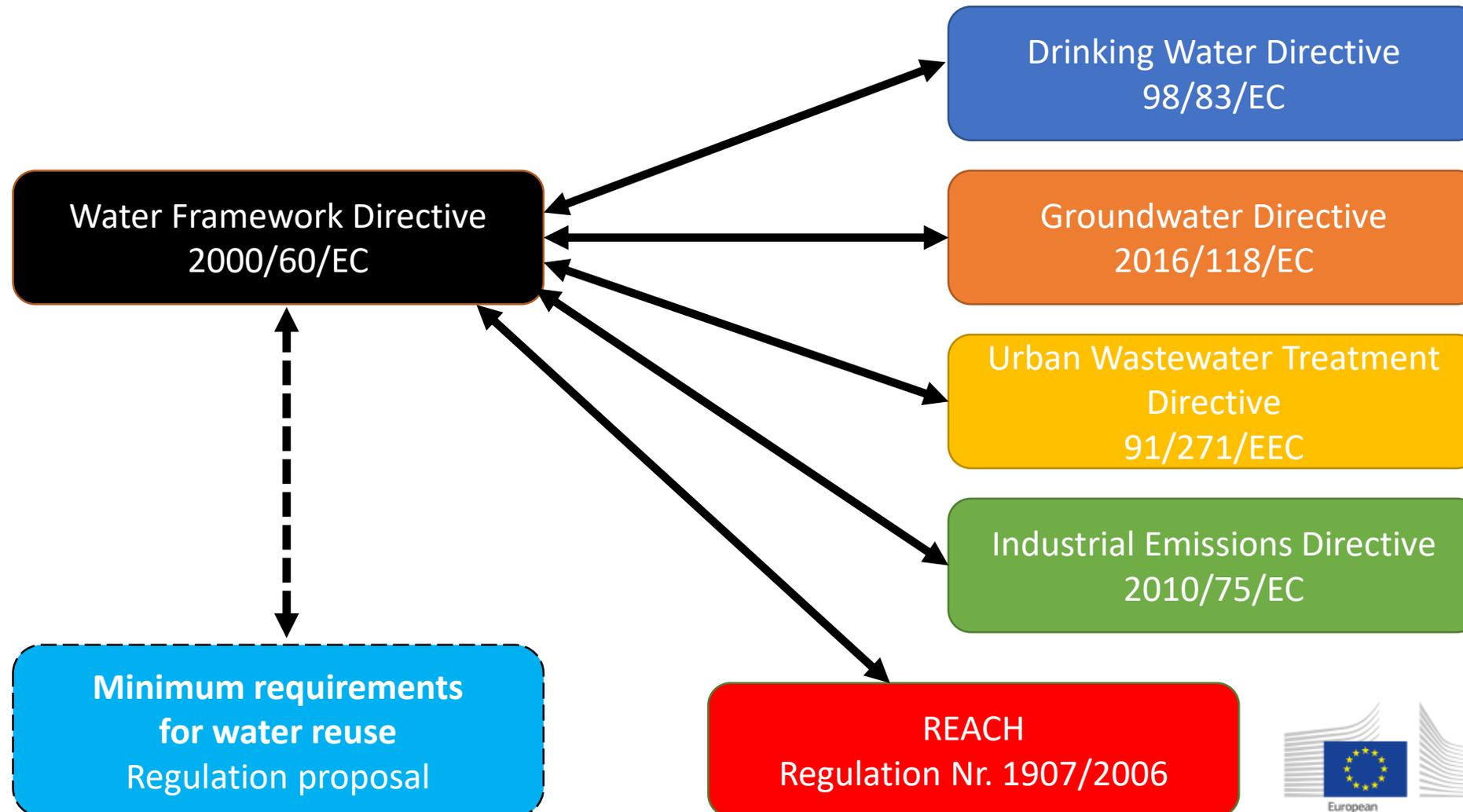
- Biological treatment
- Disinfection
- Microfiltration
- Reverse osmosis
- UV
- Advanced O₂ processes
- Activated Carbon



Figures on wastewater reuse

Country	Volume of reclaimed water [mil. m ³ per year]
California (USA)	1 000
China	10 000
Israel	744
Singapore	521
Spain	347
Italy	233
EU	1 100

European Regulatory Framework



European Regulatory Framework

Proposal of Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse

- Agricultural purposes only
- Minimum requirements according to crop category and irrigation method
- *'Fit-for-purpose'* approach
- Microbial and chemical parameters
- Same standards for all Europe → Single Market

Directive 91/271/EEC on **urban waste-water treatment**

Article 12 (1): *Treated waste water shall be reused whenever appropriate.*

Disposal routes shall minimize the adverse effects on the environment.

CoR opinion on the proposal



Our goal: *A fit-for-purpose* piece of legislation!

- Effective promotion of water reuse
- Not deter the operators to recycle water

Suggestions & comments received:

- Extend the scope of the Regulation for other uses
 - parks and gardens, street cleansing
- Flexibility to allow real 'fit-for-purpose' approach
- Duties of the authority
- Responsibility for the use of reclaimed water must be shared by producers and users
- Which information to the public?



CoR opinion on the proposal



Calendar:

- **End of September** → Publication of CoR study
 - Update current situation by Member States
 - Identify the points requiring bigger economic and administrative effort
- **27 September** → ENVE debates on working document
- **28 September** → Stakeholders consultation @CoR Brussels
- **15 November** → ENVE adopts draft opinion
- **5-6 December** → CoR plenary adopts opinion





European Committee
of the Regions

ENVE

Thank you!



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