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EU WATER
CONFERENCE
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Austrian
Presidency
of the
Council of the
European Union

Wastewater reuse

EU water legislation – fit for purpose?

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Member of the European Committee of the Regions

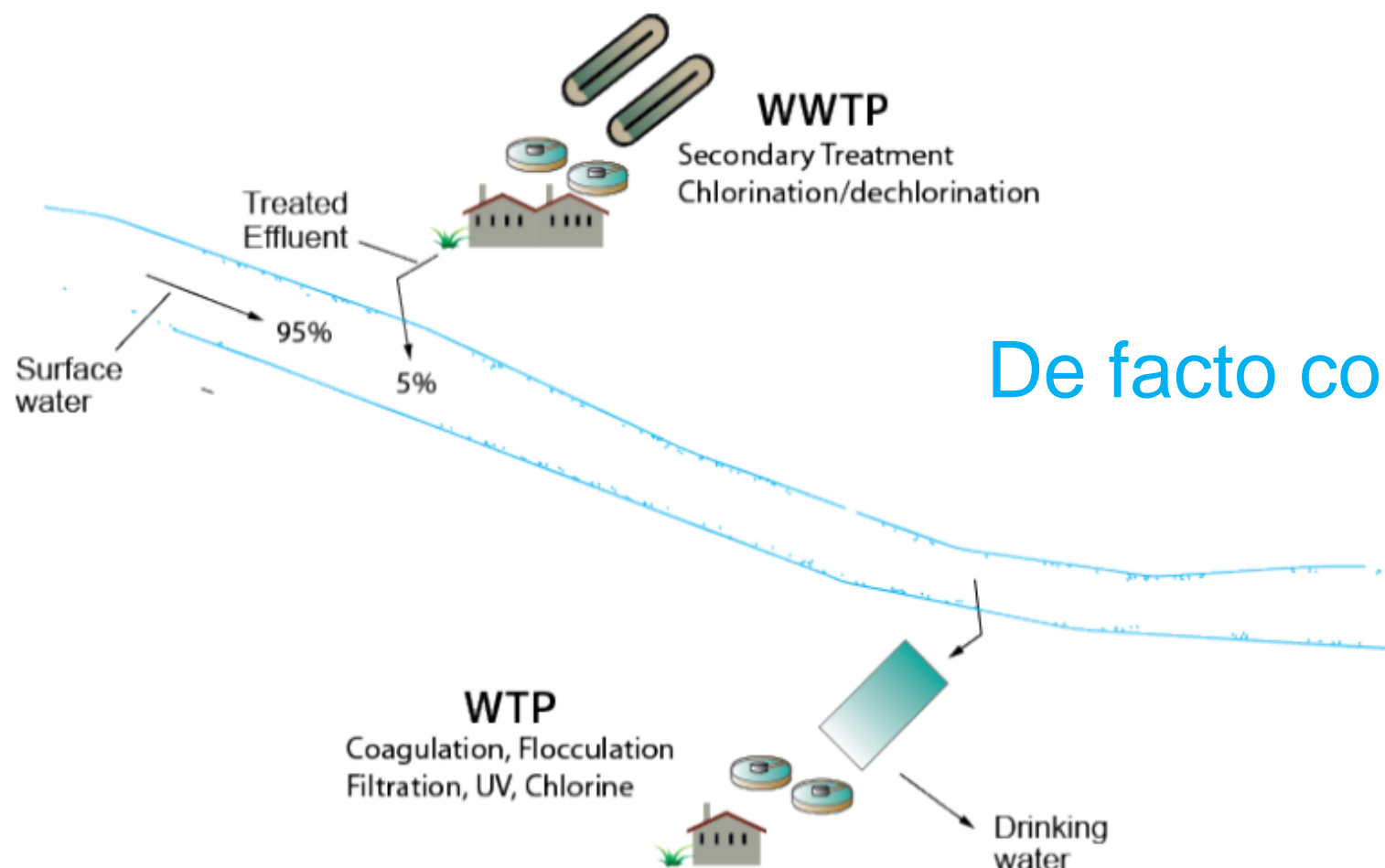
Rapporteur on the proposal of Regulation on minimum requirements for water reuse

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

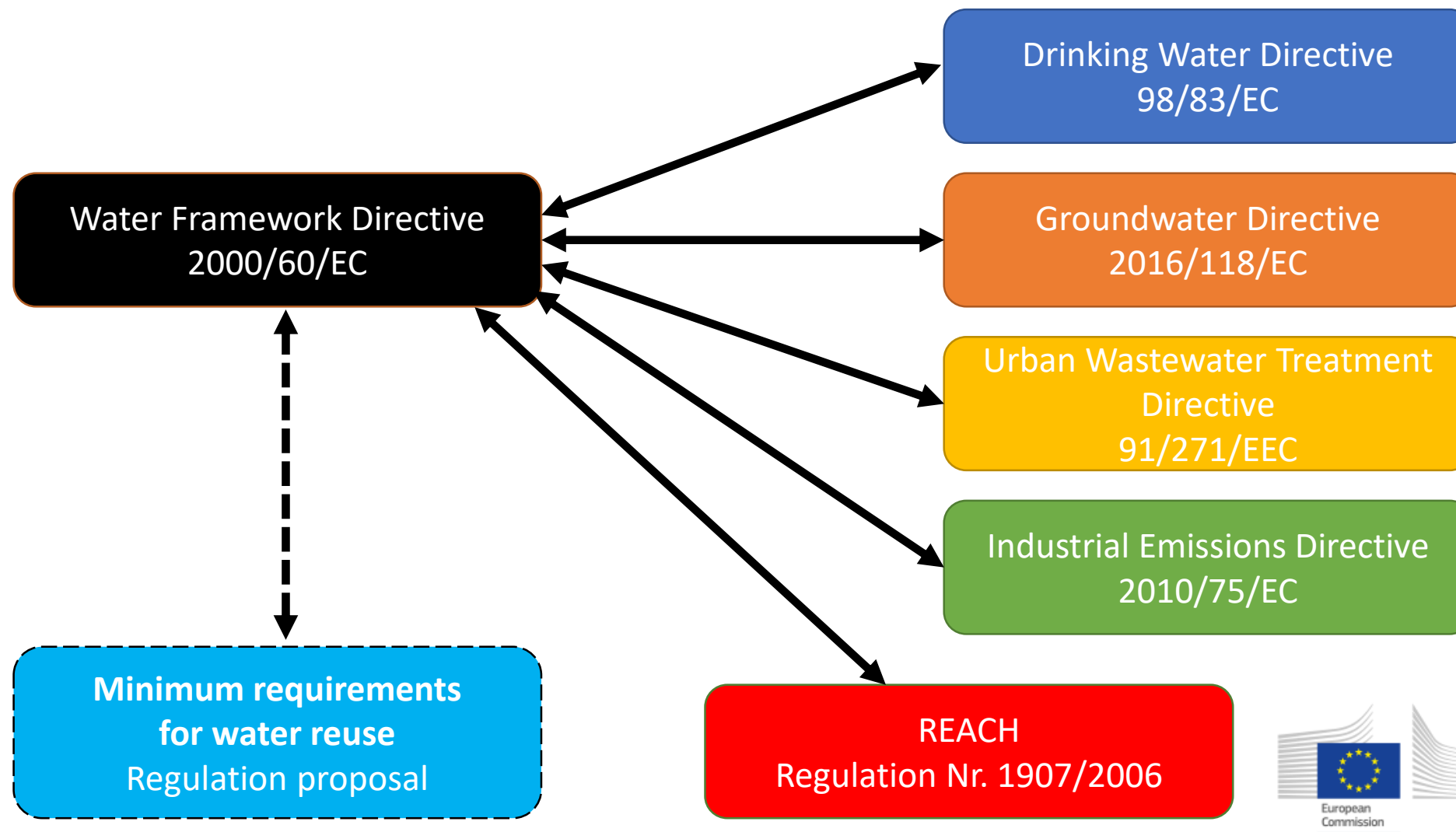
- Biological treatment
- Disinfection
- Microfiltration
- Reverse osmosis
- UV
- Advanced O₂ processes
- Activated Carbon



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





Thank you!



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