



The European Green Deal to the rescue?

Paul Brotherton, Wetlands International Europe

European Green Deal

New measures on their own will not be enough



Better Enforcement

POLITICO

OPINION

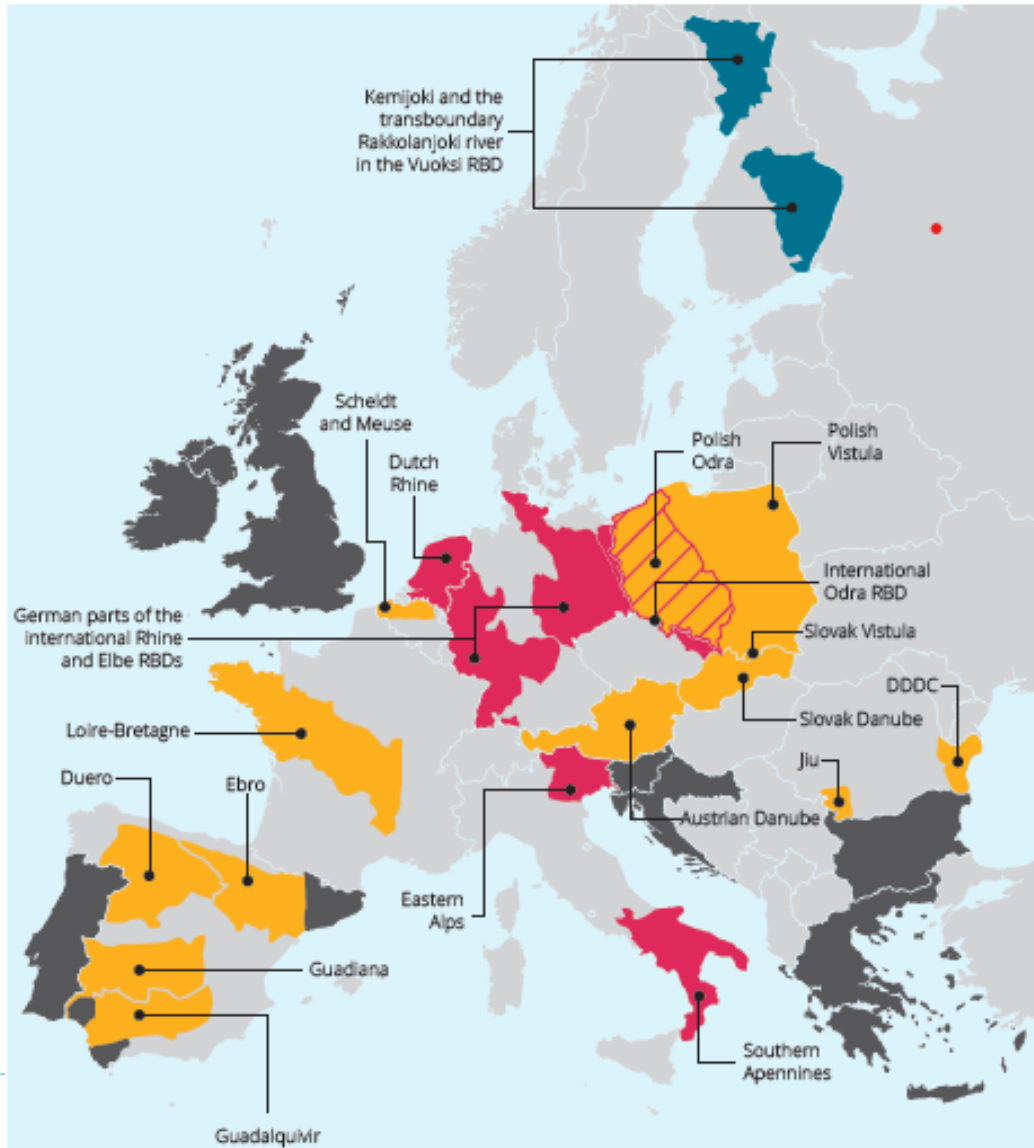
The curious case of the EU's disappearing infringements



**2004-18:
-67% drop
infringement
cases
-87% drop cases
referred to
European Court
Justice**

Better Implementation

The Final Sprint for European Rivers



By 2027 deadline:

- 90% of river basins studied will still be unhealthy
- 2 of 21 river basins might see good health by 2027

Draft RBMPs assessed in this report and their overall performance score:



Better Integration

Water Framework Directive – Birds & Habitats Directives

EC 2019 overview: 2nd RBMPs will not bring significant progress status of protected areas



3rd RBMPs - Insufficient:

- Resources
- Capacity
- Time to assess RBMPs
- Integration conservation objectives RBMPs
- Coordination

Limited knowledge water requirements species & habitats

Economic interests higher priority

Better Implementation & Integration

Other policy tools for free-flowing rivers

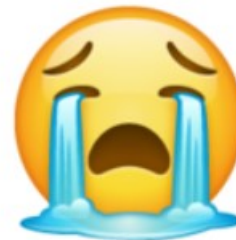
- **European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund**



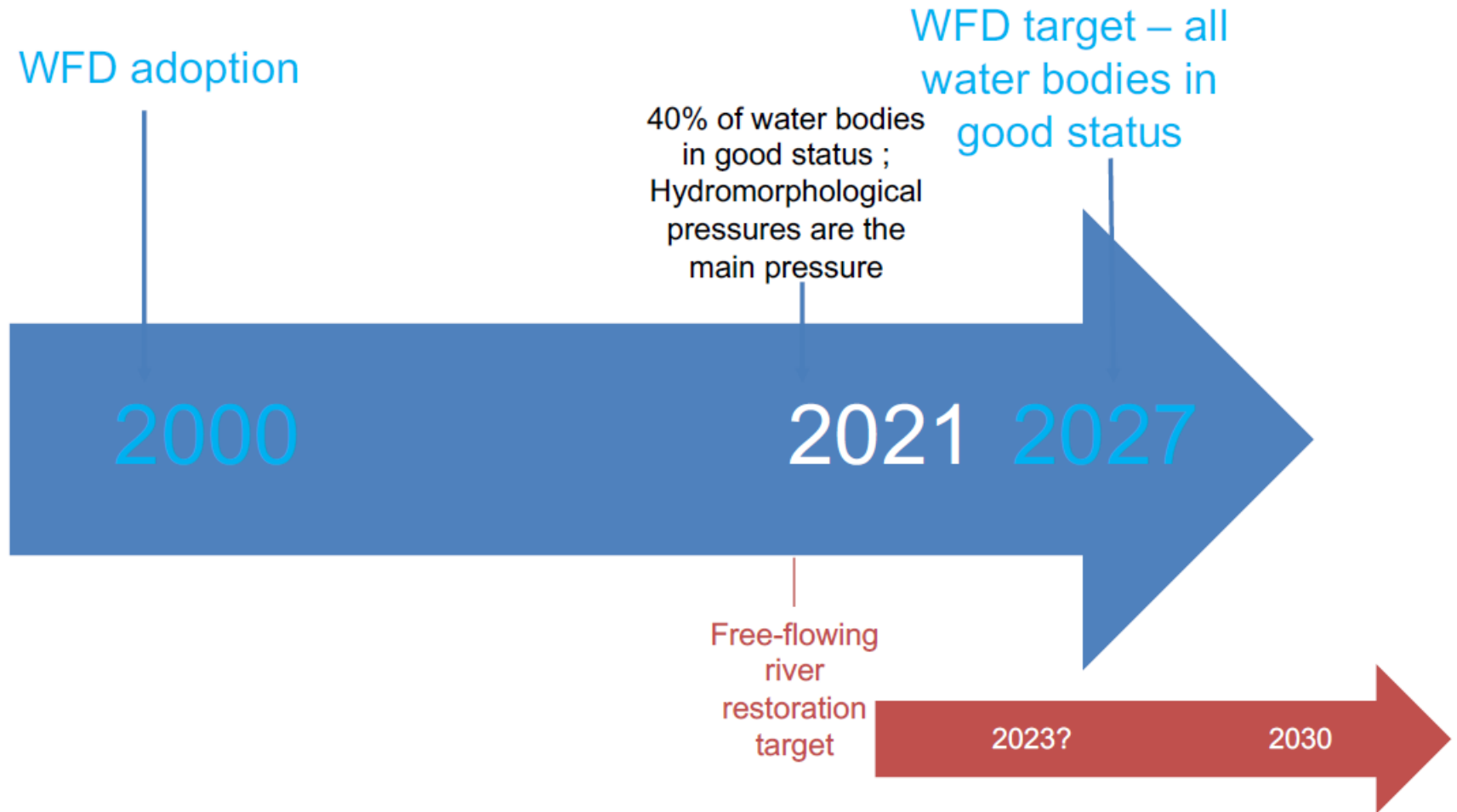
- **European Eel Regulation**



- **Common Agriculture Policy**



Why does a free-flowing rivers target matter?



Europe is ready for a free-flowing rivers target

A pan-European survey
to strengthen and improve policies
and strategic planning regarding river
continuity restoration



Key Results participating countries:

72% national database of artificial
barriers

52% priority list of barriers to
improve river continuity

83% have national policies and/or
strategies to restore river continuity

76% river continuity is 'rarely'
mentioned in political discussions

State of Free Flow

Nature Restoration Law

euobserver



NEWS / GREEN ECONOMY

Nature on hold as EU puts premium on food security

2021 - 104,000 EU citizens asked to adopt restoration law

March 2022 – Announcement delayed

+160 NGOs and 13,000 citizens immediately requested

- No delay
- Set a new launch date within a month
- No weakening

Benefits of a legally binding free-flow target



Working together
for healthy rivers
in Europe



- **Restore at least 25,000 km of free-flowing rivers by 2025**
- **Monitoring requirements to increase this target during the next review / adoption of separate legal act.**
- **15% of rivers (178,000 km) restored to a free flowing state by 2030**
- 25,000 km = 2% of EU rivers
- Prioritise river continuity in RBMPs – accelerate WFD objectives
- Reorient from adapting existing barriers to complete removal
- Bridge the gap between ambitions and actions –Accelerate EU Biodiversity Strategy

European Rivers Summit - Brussels

September 29 – 1 October



Organization:



euRONATUR

RiverWatch



Thank you!



Paul.Brotherton@wetlands.org



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